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12 JANUARY 1987

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

POSSIBILITY OF ARAB-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE--Well informed Arab diplomatic sources reported that consultations are currently under way between Chedli Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League, and several West European governments in order to agree on the issue of holding an Arab-European conference on the foreign ministerial level. The conference will deal with the principal problems of the Middle East, and also the subject of terrorism and the need to nip it in the bud. The sources explained that the Arabs do not want to hold this conference, which would be the first of its kind on the ministerial level, during the period in which Britain has the chairmanship of the European Economic Community [EEC], which will end in 1986. This is due to the position of Margaret Thatcher's government on Arab issues and due to it recently severing [diplomatic] relations with Syria. The Arab sources think that it is likely that this conference will be held at the beginning of the coming year, after January 1987, when Belgium assumes the chairmanship of the EEC for a period of 6 months. [Text] [Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 22 Nov 86 p 10] /6091

CSO: 4504/78

REDEVELOPMENT OF LAKE AL-BARDAWIL FISHING INDUSTRY

Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic 19 Nov 86 pp 26-28, 68

[Article by Muhammad 'Ali Sayyid: "Fish Smuggling From al-Bardawil. Al-Bardawil Fish Return to Europe Because of 'Chernobyl'"]

[Text] Because of the Chernobyl incident and the nuclear cloud, al-Bardawil fish are once again being exported to Europe.

And because of Chernobyl, grey mullet and Denise fish are once again invading European markets. The first shipment was 80 tons. The fact is that the lake had suffered neglect throughout the occupation of Sinai and Israel paid no attention to its development, but was only concerned with exhausting its fish wealth for export by plane to Europe. Life has recently returned to al-Bardawil and its production has risen to 2,000 tons after dredging its harbor. And now, how is al-Bardawil being developed? Why is the fish being smuggled? And what problems do fishermen suffer?

AKHIR SA'AH presents a full picture of what is happening in al-Bardawil, on Sinai's northern shore, and examines first hand the problems of the lake and the fishermen, as well as the problems of cleaning the straits and the al-Bardawil fish-smuggling operation.

The name of al-Bardawil goes back to "Baldwin," a crusader king who attacked Egypt at al-Firmah, in front of the Nile's al-Baluti branch (ancient). He was wounded in battle and died across from al-Bardawil, so its salts were used to preserve his body until he was buried in Jerusalem next to his brother, Samuel II, another crusader leader.

The nomads say, however, that the name al-Bardawil goes back to "al-Bardawil Ibn Rashid," an al-Halaliyah Arab commander who died in a battle named after him.

Today, as Major General Munir Shash, governor of North Sinai, explained it, al-Bardawil is located between al-Zaraniq and Rummanah along 85 kilometers and is 30 km away from the city of al-'Arish to the north. Its area is 168,000 feddans and is between half to three meters deep. It is joined to the sea by two straits, one in the east and the other in the west, with a distance of 40 km between them. It has a third strait called the Strait of al-Zaraniq.

Over 800 fishing boats run by more than 3,000 fishermen operate on the lake. It is also the source of livelihood for about 20,000 citizens who represent the fishermen's families and support personnel.

The lake's average annual production is between 2,000 and 3,000 tons of the best quality fish, especially "Denise" which comprises 70 percent of the lake's production and mullet, representing 15 percent of the lake's output.

Perhaps the most important effective factor in the lake's production is the dredging of the lake's two straits, especially in view of the Mediterranean's nature of casting its sand to the south, thus affecting the al-Bardawil straits and prompting us to undertake a huge dredging operation 2 years ago and installing two permanent dredgers there prior to an extensive development process we plan to carry out in the lake in cooperation with some foreign countries.

Al-'Arish's Share of Fish

In a practical production demonstration amid tireless movement by the fisherman at the fish harbor, Muhammad Yusuf 'Abid, board chairman of al-Bardawil Lake, stood to explain to us that the average daily output is 15 tons of various kinds of fish, handled as follows:

--Six tons a day for the [North] Sinai Governorate, to be sold in al-'Arish city markets.

--The two fishermen's associations sell fish for 2 days to the private sector merchants in the governorate.

--The Egyptian Fish Company takes delivery of the remaining amount of fish obtained during 4 days of every week.

--The kilo of fish at al-Bardawil harbor is fixed at 140 piasters for ordinary fish and 375 piasters for export fish.

Al-Bardawil Fish Export

As of the beginning of production in 1981 following the return of the lake to Egypt, fish was exported only in 1983 when 25 tons were sent abroad and orders thereafter dried up until this year during which 80 tons have been exported so far. Orders keep coming in due to the concern in Europe over the effects of radiation from the Chernobyl reactor, something on which we must fully capitalize, particularly in view of the high European demand for the excellent varieties of al-Bardawil fish.

--The fishing season in al-Bardawil is from April to October when the fish migrate to lay their eggs in the sea and return in February to grow and settle until the new fishing season gets under way.

Engineer Zakariya Qutub, representative of the Egyptian Fish Company, picks up the dialogue, saying: "The company takes delivery of the lake's fish

production by buying it from al-'Arab and al-'Arish Fishermen's Associations. Production this year is expected to reach 1,800 tons, at an average output of 10 tons daily, 40 percent of which goes to al-'Arish and the rest to the governorates.

Daily output includes 10 percent of inferior quality which is used in the production of salted fish for sale during the summer only.

Three types of fishing boats operate in al-Bardawil Lake, al-Dibbah, and al-Busa which are small boats and al-Shanshalah which are trawlers that fish for export.

AKHIR SA'AH took a trip on a al-Shanshalah boat that began just after sunrise, by orders of the Border Guard, and lasted until midnight, by special permission.

Lake Under Occupation

Aboard the boat that set sail from the harbor into the vast stretches of the lake, a group of fishermen, the president of the fishermen's associations, and some officials gathered around. Since the fishermen were busy as usual preparing the boat for sail and making sure of the sailing course, my first question was about the lake under occupation and its condition when it was given back. Muhammad 'Abid, chairman of the lake's board, answered this question by saying: "The answer to this question is based on a study undertaken by the European Common Market to develop the lake. The study was conducted by a French company that obtained its information from Israel. It said:

That the lake's average output under the occupation was from 500 to 2,000 tons a year, an average lower than the current rate of output.

Israel did not take care of the lake. Its concern was to make the largest possible gains by fishing for mullet and Denise fish for daily export by air to Europe.

Israel dredged al-Bardawil straits twice when it was close to being shut down and the quantities of Denise fish in it dropped sharply.

Production figures show that the lake's average output in 1968 was 1,058 tons. In 1970, it rose to 1,96 tons and sharply dropped in 1971 to 928 tons. It began rising again in 1978 when it reached 2,270 tons, dropping sharply in 1979 to 939 tons, to rise once again to average of 2,000 tons.

Because of the dredging operation, Israel imposed a tariff on fishermen and fish to cover expenses.

This French study was done under a 4 million Egyptian pound grant for the development of al-Bardawil Lake with the proviso that a plan be drawn up for that, something which we are in the process of doing. We plan to build breakwaters at the straits to lower the rate of debris and set up refrigerators, ice plants and fish farms to increase the lake's yield.

With The Head Fisherman

Over a cup of tea that took a long time to prepare over a gas stove, the head fisherman and other fishermen who had finished their work gathered around us, while waiting for new work, to talk to us about life and the lake.

Head fisherman Bakir, president of the al-'Arish Fishermen's Association, said "the association was proclaimed in 1964 and reproclaimed following the lake's return. It includes 1,500 fishermen from al-'Arish, Rafah, and al-Shaykh Zuwayd.

"It supplies the fishermen with fishing gear such as thread, rope, and engines in exchange for 10 piasters for each kilo of fish sold at the lake.

"Work at the lake is organized on the basis of 5 working days, Saturday through Wednesday, with 2 days off for the fishermen to go home to take of their family needs.

"Fishermen begin work on Saturday by preparing their boats and supplying them with food, tea, stoves, and other fishing gear and they set out for 5 days of fishing.

"The work day is divided between the different types of boats. The trawlers fish during the day and the small boats cast their nets at night and collect their take in the morning.

"As soon as fishing operations are over, the fish is put on ice while waiting for the motorboats to transport them daily to the fishing harbor where they are weighed in the presence of an association representative and delivered to the appropriate party.

"From Monday to Thursday, the Egyptian Fish Company takes delivery of 70 percent of production and the remainder is delivered to the governorate for export. On Saturday and Sunday, the company receives 30 percent only and the remainder goes to the private sector.

"The motorboats also transport fresh food daily to the fishermen on the lake during their trips.

"The lake is marked by a high rate of fishing during the early days of the week, or after the break and drops thereafter. Our primary concerns are three: the straits, smuggling, and customs.

"First, dredging. The better the condition of the straits the higher the take. The fact is that Dr Yahya Hasan, former head of the Fish Wealth Authority and current governor of al-Qalyubiyah Governorate, was the one responsible for cleaning up the straits and keeping it clean, but when he left his position things changed.

Second, customs. Up until this year, we were exempt from customs duties because we offer a product to the country. This year, however, we have been surprised with new things:

"Presidential Decree No 186 of 1986 pertaining to customs exemption regulations was issued. It imposes customs duties on fishing boat engines, even though bought prior to the date of the decree. This has placed added burdens on us and we are demanding a return to Law No 91 of 1983 which granted us the exemptions as an incentive for fishermen to work, or else they will leave the lake.

"There is also the problem of 300 engines we imported a while back under the association's name custom free. A year later, we were surprised by a customs request for 16,000 pounds in customs fees on grounds that the engines' ownership had been transferred to individuals even though these individuals were members of the association. This is the system that has been in place for a while."

Al-Bardawil Fish Smuggling

But the most important problem at al-Bardawil Lake is fish smuggling. Why?

Due to the high cost of al-Bardawil fish, the mullet and Denise in particular, in Lower Egypt, fishermen resort to smuggling to make up their loss in lake prices. This is hard to control due to the lake's extensive shores and the deals struck between the fishermen and small transporters that carry fish from remote areas to the other governorates. This requires a definite solution via the reexamination of fish prices at the lake to encourage fishermen to sell at the harbor, especially in view of the high cost of living and fishing gear.

A trawler's yield is 200 kilograms a day of Denise, 140 kg of which goes for export at a price of 2 pounds for the fisherman and 60 kg at a price of 140 piasters for the fisherman to be sold on the local market. This comes out to a daily income of 344 pounds with 167 in deductions for transportation, ice, engine repair, and food for the fisherman, and 177 pounds in salaries and the remaining 88 are profit for the trawler's owner. I do not understand how this is not a lucrative income!

Boat master Samir Hamadah Husayn, who went into fishing 7 years ago after leaving junior high school, says: "The work day is from 6 am to 6 pm, after which the fish is put on ice and food is prepared for dinner--the boat is equipped with everything we need--and after that the only thing left to do is to go to bed."

His children live in al-'Arish. He spends Thursdays and Fridays with them, but cannot spend a long time with them because most of them are in school. He is adamantly against the idea of their going into fishing.

As for his income, he gets 50 pounds every 2 weeks when he settles his account with the boat owner.

Other fishermen--Matar Ibrahim, Ahmad Sawwan, Ahmad Yusuf, Ashraf 'Abd-al-Qadir and Bakr Isma'il--agree with him.

They agree that things at the lake used to be better than this year because prices have gone up. For example, fishing yarn this year has gone up from 150 pounds to 250 pounds.

'Ali al-Malih, a fishing boat chief, told us that fishing is allowed all over the lake except in the straits where fishing is banned by order of the Frontier Guard.

Aboard a Fishing Boat

Aboard a fishing boat, one can easily notice many interesting things on the boat and in the lake:

--The bottom of the lake is very shallow. It almost touches the boat and can be seen with the naked eye. Large fish can be seen scampering away suddenly when they hear the engine.

--Periodically white fish dart out of the water. These are the mullet fish famous for this sort of movement. Suddenly, a strong fish, said to be a sea bass, darts by after a mullet which it loves.

--The sea gull, the skillful aerobatic fisher, suddenly swoops down into the water and comes out with a fish in its beak.

--The snow white line over there is the migrant birds taking a rest, perturbed only by the boat's movement. When we drew near to them for a closer look, they flew away in magnificent geometric circles to join behind the flock leader in a marvellous formation.

--A group of small fishing boats gathered in a circle, with yarn hanging around the side and the anchor in the water, while the owners sleepily curled up inside them waiting for the night work.

--Another group goes around in quick movements, spinning fishing nets while others float in the water to unload the fish.

--Every now and then a small transport boat darts by on its way to or from the fishing boats.

In al-Bardawil Straits

After 3 consecutive hours with the motor boat, we arrived at strait number 1, as demarcated by a Border Guard permit.

On the left side of the strait stood one of two dredgers, a small and apparently old one standing still under our arrival when it abashedly made a simple turn then fell silent once again.

The strangest thing I found out about the dredger is that dredging operations were completed in 1985 at a cost of 2.5 million pounds while the current price of a large modern one is only 2 million.

Moreover, the Suez Canal Authority refused to do this job, so a Dutch company working on widening the Suez Canal undertook this task.

The strait appears before us small and clear with the water going from the pond to the lake. With the naked eye, schools of fish could be seen crossing the straits on their way to the lake. The fishermen got impatient waiting for permission to go down, so they jumped with their small nets after these schools that appeared suddenly in an area declared out of bounds to boats, 3 km beyond the straits inside and outside the lake, in an effort to stop smuggling, especially since the area is an important border zone in Egypt.

On the right side, we disembarked so that the fishermen could enjoy a rare privilege of fishing in fish havens, especially in the small bays where their nets came out full of fish.

With a natural spontaneity, some fishermen broiled fresh fish on the gas fire for a quick snack before lunch.

A fisherman's lunch consists of broiled mullet and a rice and macaroni dish. They eat with their hands while sitting on the ground, so that they can devote their time to fishing, a chance which does not come by often, if ever.

The fishermen, naturally, complain about the permits and the restraints that deprive them of movement in the lake which is located on their national soil. They demand freedom of movement around the clock and are not convinced of allegations of security needs.

In an area far away from the strait is an Arab island "al-Alas" that has about 3,000 inhabitants, mostly fishermen. It is bordered by the lake in the back and the Mediterranean in front, but nonetheless has a fresh water spring. Life centers around the speedy fishing boats under Border Guard rules and regulations. The strange thing is that it has Jewish, Christian, and Islamic ruins for it is, as has been said, a passageway for the three religions. Since the permit did not include landing on the island, as we found out while at sea, we could not visit it.

Only the fall of night could make the fishermen stop fishing out of fear of high land and the hazards of dealing with the Border Guard at night. Let us begin our journey back.

During the day trip, we learned that the bluer the water is, the closer the land. So we turned away from the light blue water to get away from it. At night, movement must be slow. Stopping is done with the help of a large flood light mounted at the bow and guarded by three old fishermen.

Every now and then, one of these old guards would yell "stop" to turn off the engine immediately, either because of passing through elevated land or over a net cast at night and may be dragged by the engine.

In the middle of the lake, their concern was crossing the airplane zone, an area, according to them, that has the wreck of two war planes downed in the 1967 war. So far, no one has thought of clearing them to facilitate navigation.

After 5 consecutive hours of slow sailing at night, the boat arrived at the harbor, revealing its presence by directing the flood light toward the shore as a "safety" signal to the Border Guard so they would not start firing at it. Amid the "stop" yells and order to unload the fish to be put on ice, we left them, waiting for another morning and another day of work.

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EFFECTS OF CHILD LABOR EXAMINED

London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 28 Nov 86 pp 70-75

[Article by Amani Kamal al-Din: "A Million Egyptian Children on the Labor Black Market"]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH in this investigative report continues to publish subjects selected from among hundreds of investigative reports entered in its major press competition.

Another talent AL-HAWADITH places on its pages face to face with the readers in observance of its lasting motto: "Let a hundred flowers--and a talent--bloom."

Next it will publish another report and will stand by another talent.

Man...Before Time

"The proletarian child" is a strange term, but it does sum up a social reality and a strange world bordering in its details on tragedy. It is a world filled with toil, sadness, and aborted joys. It is the world of the children who go out to work before they finish their education, indeed before they have a chance to live their childhood dreams.

In Egypt, as in the other poor countries of the world, "childhood proletariat" manifests itself and plays an effective role in all economic activities. Child labor in Egypt, however, takes on serious and important dimensions that are of concern to the government, the opposition, and public opinion. The number of working children under the age of 12 has hit 1.014 million, representing 7 percent of the total work force in the country. This is in addition to hundreds of thousands of children working in rural areas who are not included in the statistics and about which the government knows nothing.

Why do children go out to work? And why do some experts support child labor, notwithstanding their admission that this may expose them to boundless job injuries and immeasurable psychological scars?

These and other questions are still under debate by the Egyptian government, research center experts, and universities. It may be a very long debate

because they admit that the child labor phenomenon is regarded as one of the most complex social problems and one that is most intertwined with other social and economic problems, and indeed, to many, the consequence of these problems. Perhaps its complexity is due to the lack of adequate, complete, or elaborate data. For although a tour of Cairo streets and major cities bears witness to this huge number of working lads at workshops and stores, official statistics on their numbers, the kind of work they do, and their working conditions is almost non-existent. With the exception of a limited number of studies and research papers, the problem of these children would have remained unknown and indeed obscure despite all its clear and patent aspects that invite tragedy.

It was illustrated in 1971 statistics that the number of children in the labor market reached 1.4 million, 1.1 million of whom were males and 300,000 were females, and 25 percent of them received salaries while 70 percent received no independent compensation because they worked for the family, in rural areas particularly, where children usually help their parents in farming. These statistics pointed out that child labor in urban areas was not as widespread as in rural areas, but was more hazardous. In 1984, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics [CAPMAS] conducted a sample study of the labor force in Egypt that came out with a complicated result that said that child labor dropped to 1.014 million. A general census underway in Egypt, however, may reveal a larger number and more melodramatic facts.

It is interesting that Egyptian law prohibits child labor for children under 12. Moreover, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Labor, and labor organizations that protect children against exploitation oversee the enforcement of this law. Nonetheless, the child labor phenomenon is growing day by day without any consideration for the law. The law is not adequate for facing this problem for there are social, economic, and cultural reasons that are bigger than the law and more effective than government oversight.

Poverty is the first and primary factor behind the emergence and growth of child labor. A study conducted by Dr Ahmad 'Abdallah on a group of children working at a tannery corroborated the fact that 90 percent of the parents admitted that their children worked to help support the family and that they dropped out of school for this very reason.

The fact is that elementary school dropouts are driven to the labor market even if their family's income was enough to meet their basic needs. A mother of a child working in a car repair shop in Giza told me that her son worked because he failed to get an elementary school diploma. She added: "My husband works in an Arab country and sends us enough money, but what could the boy do after flunking school? He has to acquire a trade that can guarantee him a decent living in the future." It may be, however, that the family's inability to spend money on the children's education is one motive for pulling them out of school and pushing them to work. This appears to be one of the strong reasons for child labor. A report put out by the National Council on Education and Scientific Research said that 30 percent of students drop out of school out of a desire to enhance the family income.

Some educators believe that the low standard of teaching and the overcrowding in public schools leads to a higher rate of children staying away from school. The enrollment rate in elementary schools is 40 percent, a high rate that leads to a growing child labor market. Clinical psychology professor Dr Muhammad Sha'ban believes that children under the age of 12 have a great capacity to try and test the outside world while the current educational system inhibits such capacities. Hence, children, or at least some of them, do not welcome school and, consequently, dropping out and working at a workshop may be a means of salvation and emancipation. If a school is restrictive and repressive, work in this case may be an emancipation from subjugation and from a family cooped up in a dark small apartment with no room for expression or movement save for parental abuse and hostility toward offspring. In this case, work becomes something like freedom from captivity.

More than that, some experts who participated in a seminar held by the National Social Research Center last summer welcome child labor because of the invaluable experience it can provide. Furthermore, economic and social needs of most Egyptian families in urban and rural areas alike justify child labor. The proponents of this viewpoint, however, stipulate that children should only work after school under the protection of the law and special labor regulations for children under 15 and juveniles under 17.

On the opposite side stands Dr Ahmad Shakir, general director of the Occupational Health Center in Imbabah, who rejects child labor under any circumstances. He warns that health hazards have reached children working in Egyptian rural areas, especially following the introduction of machinery and wide-spread use of insecticides. Dr Shakir goes on to say that the problem of child labor is neither Egyptian nor Arab, but rather an international one. WHO reports have stated that the number of working children at the global level is 55 million and the percentage of children in the workforce as a whole in some developing countries is up to 30 percent, as opposed to 1.6 percent in some advanced countries. To be sure, these figures show up the negative manifestations of child labor in Egypt and the Third World. However, talk about hazards and accidents facing children gives concrete form to this tragedy. Local and international statistics confirm that the rate of job-related injuries and accidents is higher among children than among adults because children tire faster, lack experience and training, and have shorter attention spans. Also, children are more susceptible to noise, industrial pollution, and exposure to heat and chemicals. As for psychological and behavioral patterns, they are the concern of more than one researcher. A rise in the crime rate among working children has been noted due to the fact that they usually come from poor or broken families and earn enough money to take care of themselves and indulge in some bad habits such as smoking, drugs, and alcohol.

Working children are subjected to material and mental abuse because of the lack of government control and harsh working conditions under cruel employers who are well aware of a child's needs but nonetheless delay or deduct from their salaries. Often children are subjected to a beating, verbal abuse, and perhaps dismissal for the smallest offense.

There are some trades that incarnate this situation, at the forefront of which is working at small workshops that lack government oversight or working as domestics. Dr Muhammad Sha'ban explains what goes on in these vocations in a study in which he introduces the characters of "Baliyah" and "Burtuqalah", or "orange." The former is a child who dropped out of school after twice flunking the elementary school test and therefore went to work in a workshop. Due to his youthful age, he was called "Baliyah" and he works and trains at the same time. He quickly joins the adult world, gets a salary, and tries to stand out among his neighborhood peers who are still in school, either by smoking or by being the bully. He is a person with a strong body and limited education who can outdo any gentleman in manliness. This leads him to mix sex with aggression and embarks on a raping rampage beginning with easy victims and working his way up to harder ones until he gets to the social elite which he believes to be unduly snobbish.

As for "Burtuqalah," this is not her real name, but as soon as she began working as a maid for a Cairene family, she was given the name of something edible. Hence, her personality begins to change, especially when she is addressed as "you girl, Burtuqalah." She is treated as a second-class citizen by all family members, including the boy who is her junior but nonetheless becomes her master who subjects her to all kinds of cruelty and abuse. Burtuqalah is destined to continued humiliation and abuse for many years to come after which she may get married and either rebel or continue to be abused while mistreating and abusing her own children.

Is there a solution to such inhumane child labor phenomena? Most probably such a solution is very slow in coming because the causes of the problem are very far from a quick and decisive solution, particularly since they became deep-rooted in the Egyptian social reality in the seventies. With the open-door policy and the drain of skilled and semi-skilled labor to Gulf countries, the Egyptian market suffered a shortage of labor and tradesmen, consequently turning to children to fill the need. Moreover, the high rates commanded by any tradesmen in Egypt have lured many families away from education to vocational and free occupational training. Add to that the fact that employers use child labor to enhance their profits for a child commands one-third or one-fourth the salary of an adult worker for the same kind of work. Nonetheless, the salary of a working child has an impact on the family budget. A child under the age of 10 gets two Egyptian pounds a day on the average from car repair shops for serving or helping the "masters," or the foreman. When a child reaches his 10th birthday, he is able to perform certain tasks independently or under the foreman's supervision. His salary thereupon goes up to over 3 Egyptian pounds a day, plus gratuities which may be up to 2 pounds a day on the average. In simple arithmetic, this means that a mechanic's helper under 15 years of age may earn over 150 Egyptian pounds a month, or double the salary of entry-level government or public sector employees with college degrees. Sayyid Musa 'Abd-al-'Al, age 13, says: I work at a confectionary from 0700 to 1600 with one hour for lunch. I get 3 pounds a day. I spend half a pound and give the rest to my mother who saves one pound a day for me for when I get older and spends the rest on family needs. The boy goes on to say: "I have been working since the age of 9,

after twice flunking the same grade examination. My older brother works at the tile factory for 5 pounds a day. My father is a furniture maker who works for others."

Whereas the lad Sayyid Musa apportions his salary wisely, other children do not receive any financial compensation for their labor. Either they work at workshops or factories whose owners make a deal with their parents to pay them directly or they work in the rural sector helping the family. The fact is that rural children represent an inexhaustible source of cheap and easy labor because of the absence of government control over child labor. Indeed, common social values welcome child labor which is regarded as a source of pride and early manhood. The fact is that certain agricultural operations, such as cotton picking, cotton worm treatment, and weeding, rely on small tender hands. It is strange that the government sometimes admits to the legitimacy of such work. The Ministry of Education may issue an order delaying the elementary school year until the cotton is picked or issues child work permits for after-school jobs. Parents have found in their cotton-picking kids an unexpected source of extra income for a child can command up to 3 pounds a day, a respectable sum in Lower Egypt, that enables families to meet school needs and expenses. Hence, some families wait for the cotton harvest and welcome any child labor opportunities.

Besides the seasonal cotton-picking jobs, however, rural children have other job opportunities such as working at construction sites or brick factories or cleaning ditches and sewers. These jobs are hazardous to the health and distract children from their studies in exchange for high wages, at the red brick factories particularly which the government was able to shut down last year after almost devouring the best arable land in the Nile Valley and the Delta.

In brief, the factors leading to child labor in Egypt, as in other Third World countries, have deep and intertwined roots in reality. They are related to poverty, illiteracy, low technological standards, and a lack of awareness among the citizenry about the hazards of child labor, not to mention weak educational institutions. Therefore, it is impossible to arrive at a quick solution to the problem which can only be contained and checked and its roots gradually treated, keeping in mind that the final deliverance requires a long time, arduous efforts, and close cooperation between government and popular agencies.

Actually, the Egyptian government has begun to combat truancy and curb illiteracy. Furthermore, it has set up, in cooperation with certain popular and international institutions, a series of vocational training and education centers to train and care for out-of-school children. Also, the Ministries of Health, Labor, and the Workforce are working on a working plan to oversee workshops and factories that may employ children and to impose the necessary fines stipulated by the law. Many experts, however, believe that the current law is not feasible and demand its amendment. For it does not make sense to fine an employer 10 Egyptian pounds employing a child under 12 while the money he makes from such employment is much more than 10 pounds a day. Those experts demand a fine of 100 pounds for each offense and a public awareness

campaign to educate the citizenry in the hazards of child labor and its destructive psychological and biological effects on children. This can be done via the various mass media.

Perhaps it is interesting here to quote Dr Sayyid 'Uways, a National Social Research Center advisor, about the need for oppositon party cooperation with the government to confront these and other crucial issues facing Egyptian society, such as illiteracy, the economic crisis, etc. Dr Sayyid 'Uways proposed this idea in the National Social Research Center seminar on child labor. The participants wondered whether his appeal was falling on attentive government and opposition ears or whether the political struggle would abort it before it sees the light.

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BR...

AFRICAN BANK LOAN--The African Development Bank has agreed to grant Egypt a \$102 million loan to finance the establishment of an electric power station in northern Delta, the Fariskur and Damietta station. It is the biggest loan the bank has offered to a member state since its inception. The new loan agreement will be submitted to the People's Assembly in its current session. [Excerpt] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Dec 86 p 1 JN] /6662

COMPANY PROFITS, LOSSES REPORTED--Yesterday, the general assemblies of industrial companies resumed meetings under Industry Minister Engineer Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab to consider the performance of companies during the Fiscal Year 1985-86 which ended last June. The budgets of the sugar, cigarette, and industrial gas companies were approved. The cigarette and sugar companies showed profits of 59.734 million pounds prior to tax deduction. The profits include 50,053,000 pounds profit from the cigarette factories and 9.204 million pounds profit from the sugar factories. Industrial gas company losses amounted to 1.865 million pounds. Engineer Rushdi 'Afifi, head of the food industries commission, stated that the cigarette factories' production amounted to 1,169,514,000 pounds, including 8.1 million pounds in exports, adding that the wages of the work who total 15,096, increased to 43.8 million pounds. Regarding the sugar factories, production totalled 364,137,000 pounds while exports amounted to 21.7 million pounds. The wages of the workers, who total 20,673, increased to 53.7 million pounds. [Text] [Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 December 86 p 1 JN] /6662

CSO: 4500/41

CENTRAL BANK SUCCESS, PLANS ANALYZED

Success of Central Bank

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE in French Nov 86 pp 148-155

[Article by M.A.A.: "Abdellatif Laraki: A Man Who Identifies With His Bank"]

[Text] Was it Abdellatif Laraki who identified himself with the People's Central Bank (BCP) or the opposite? It matters little; both have identified with the aggressive action, accomplishments and performance recorded over the past quarter century. If the late Omar Ben Abdeljalil breathed life into the BCP following Morocco's independence, it was Laraki who made it the bank of the PME [Small and Medium-Size Businesses] and the emigrants. The latter supply the capital making it possible to finance PME investments and operations.

Today, with 179 bank branches, including 5 in Europe, the BCP has the largest banking system in Morocco, with offices in all regions. The BCP offers an average of one teller for every 130,000 persons, a record in Africa. But the most remarkable action of the BCP consists of channeling and collecting the savings of Moroccan workers abroad (TME). Thus it is that in 1985, transfers of savings from wages amounted to 9,733,000,000 dirhams, compared with 7,674,000,000 in 1984, an increase of 27 percent.

The BCP has carved out the lion's share of the market, attracting over two-thirds of the transfers by Moroccan workers and merchants abroad. To reach that point, the BCP has set up over 17 branches in Europe (France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, the FRG), with teams of representatives crisscrossing areas of Moroccan emigration, thus providing banking service at home.

In the interior, the BCP has distinguished itself by its aggressiveness in financing the economy as well as collecting deposits and conceiving and supplying products meeting the needs of the different segments of the market, particularly the PME and craftsmen. Overall credits to the economy granted by the BCP are steadily rising: up 5 percent in 1984 over 1983 and 13 percent in 1985 over 1984. Several sectors have benefited: enterprises absorbing over 75 percent of these credits; artisans, for whom credits rose over 19 percent in 1985; and private individuals, for whom credits rose 17 percent in 1985 and 30 percent in 1984.

People's Bank in Figures (in millions of dirhams)

	<u>End 1982</u>	<u>End 1983</u>	<u>End 1984</u>	<u>End 1985</u>
Total	9,120	10,505	13,401	15,512
Resources	7,309	8,672	10,101	12,532
Uses	7,602	8,885	11,237	13,368
Bank's own funds	477	540	649	849
Net results	61	72	130	215
Net yield of balance sheet	.67%	.69%	.97%	1.39%
Net yield of own funds	12.79%	13.33%	20.03%	25.32%
Number of customers	592,000	638,000	683,000	737,000
Personnel	3,200	3,317	3,417	3,542
Number of windows	157	165	171	179

These credits do not only cover short-term assistance, as is generally the case, but rather, a large share is comprised of loans for investments, real estate or exports.

Regarding the collection of deposits, the BCP is also in the lead with an increase of 48 percent in 1985, representing 2,431,000,000 dirhams in new deposits in 1985 (compared with 1.43 billion in 1984). This enables the BCP to improve its lead on the Moroccan market with 31 percent of all resources. However, the structure of BCP deposits remains dominated by Moroccans abroad, representing 67 percent of all resources in 1985, compared with 65 percent in 1984.

Concerning management, the BCP has forged ahead with electronic banking serving its customers. A program to decentralize banking operations with terminals in several cities has been undertaken. Likewise, the Foreign Department has been integrated into the SWIFT network.

Finally, the BCP has distinguished itself by training provided in the bank's own schools or with outside establishments. One thing must be noted: None of these achievements came about to the detriment of profits. On the contrary, the BCP has tripled its net profits in 3 years and attracted over 110,000 new customers (see table). As for the increase in yield of the balance sheet and the bank's own funds, it needs no further comment.

Bank Personnel, Facilities

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE in French Nov 86 pp 150-152

[Text] "An Arab proverb says that it takes two hands to clap. By myself, I would have accomplished nothing." Abdellatif Laraki winces somewhat when asked what kind of a boss he is and then makes a correction: "Not a boss, a team captain," adding that the bank's success is that of its personnel. Like an echo, one of his assistants paraphrases former French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius: "He is us; we are him."

Among the some 30 high-level bank officers surrounding the president, one feels a desire to show us "intruders" that the management team is united behind a man "who knows how to make decisions." Laraki's charisma, the possibilities of promotion offered by a decentralized structure, the diversity of tasks characteristic of a people's bank have undoubtedly been, for these graduates of the major professional schools, more motivating elements than the salary offered. Even if last year was a year to catch up on wages, the People's Credit pays somewhat less than an ordinary bank. A secretary earns from 55,000 to 60,000 dirhams a year; a director an average of 250,000 dirhams (1 DH = 40 CFA francs).

On the other hand, personnel training (3,800 individuals, a third in management) is a major concern of bank officials, first of all, because the people's banks hire many persons: about 400 this year, 300 in upper-level management, and second, because, as the president says, "when we want an expert, we take young people and train them."

Some 6 to 7 percent of the wage mass is devoted to training. From 1,000 to 1,500 persons are in training programs or seminars every year. The People's Central Bank calls on foreign assistance practically only for its computer operations. "In 1972 and 1973, we were ahead in that field," Laraki explains. "Today, improving customer service is a priority and if we cannot do it ourselves, it does not bother me at all to call in foreign experts. I consider that People's Credit personnel are 100-percent Moroccanized."

In the basement of the BCP headquarters, the prayer room is on the left and the computers on the right. Nearly 150 persons go about studying the best way to handle a million accounts, equip all offices with minicomputers, operate the regional networks and set up daily links between regional banks and the Central Bank.

"It is a factory," the department head says smiling. Above all, it is the department on which Laraki has decided to focus energy and financial means. Over the next 3 years, some 30 to 50 percent of all budget spending will be devoted to it.

Naturally, the data processing department has a special division for Moroccan workers abroad, the TME. These special customers represent 2,000 bank transfers a day and an average of 7,000 postal money orders to be handled. Two-thirds come from France, but the BCP also receives more and more from the Middle East. For a time, Laraki himself sought to learn about computers. He has since decided to "wait for computer operations at the crossroads" in his eighth-floor office and spend more time analyzing the transformations which the introduction of new technologies means for his banking profession. Furthermore, he emphasizes, "automatic tellers are fine, but our specificity within the Moroccan banking system forces us to give priority to direct contact with the customer. There are still Moroccans who do not dare to go into a bank to open an account because they think they are asking for a service."

The mission of "bankizing" the People's Banks is actually far from finished, Laraki believes. Electronic banking is definitely a major concern for a bank that wants to remain a local leader, but the People's Banks must not forget that their vocation is to loan and make money grow in a spirit of mutual aid and solidarity.

In order to play this role, the bank has adopted a two-fold strategy for the years ahead. On the one hand, there will be an increase in the number of regional banks (there are some 15; there will be at least 30) and they will be restructured in order to be closer to the PME, the artisans and small farmers who are their principal customers. In addition, new products will be created aimed at encouraging Moroccans to use bank services more.

Two examples, mutual guarantee operations, first of all. About 3 years ago, following the fourth and last Congress of Moroccan People's Banks, the BCF conceived the idea of setting up a mutual guarantee system among professionals. For example, Casablanca taxis are from 10 to 12 years old, on the average. The cars are falling apart and their owners have neither the money nor the backing to obtain loans from conventional financing organizations. A mutual security company for taxi owners was therefore set up in 1984, SOCMET, grouping over 500 members who finance one another and are responsible for updating the taxi pool. The bank helps them and offers them financial supervision.

Another product is "Addame Achaabi," which can be translated as retirement or people's insurance. "We created this product thinking of ourselves," the president explains. "As we grow older, we have realized that the benefits we would receive from the Moroccan National Fund would not be adequate. Thanks to this new service, those who have no retirement can save for their later years and those who do can set up an additional retirement fund. The product responds to a need while helping customers." Actually -- and the president emphasizes this point -- the strength of the People's Credit is that it has created its own clientele by looking for customers where they were to be found, using methods that have sometimes shocked more conventional bankers. In 1964, People's Bank "teller trucks" went to the souks, where people keep their money around their middle. "Those trucks served as a branch in the rural world. Moroccans reacted favorably, saying 'the bank is the merchants,'" Laraki reports.

Today, there are still some 30 small areas where the People's Bank is the only financial institution. "We have always been pioneers," Laraki's assistants are fond of saying. "Even in Casablanca, we were the first to leave the downtown area and set up branches in this part of the city." The eight-storey building on Avenue Hassan II and Boulevard Zerktouni does not look any older, although inside it is being redecorated. The bank emblem, the horse, is omnipresent, a well-chosen logo that for most Moroccans symbolizes confidence and loyalty. A recent study which Moroccan bankers had completed by Creargie in Casablanca showed that an overwhelming majority (93 percent) of all Moroccans questioned identified the little horse with the People's Banks. In the field of communications, this mark of success would be envied by many European or American banks!

Laraki Interviewed

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE in French Nov 86 pp 152-155

[Interview with Abdellatif Laraki, chairman of the board of the People's Central Bank; date and place not given]

[Text] [Question] They say that you are not like other bankers, that you are a "loner." Where would you put yourself in the Moroccan banking community?

[Answer] I think that that is a rather accurate definition, although it owes nothing to my personality! We are not like other bankers because the task of the People's Bank -- now they use the word "people's" for banks! -- is not a conventional mission. This vocation has certainly caused us to reflect upon a whole system of value that is not common in traditional banking circles. But there is something else: We are a separate bank also, perhaps, because we started by ourselves. We have sprung from the country, while all other banks in Morocco had a parent bank abroad. I believe that that had something to do with it. We had to do everything here, create everything from scratch. That is what caused us to be sort of like "free agents."

[Question] To what do you attribute the success of the People's Bank over the past 25 years?

[Answer] I think that it is due to several phenomena. First of all, there was a need. If our lawmakers set up the People's Bank, it was because it realized that our craftsmen, the PME, did not have access to banking. In 1964, to be the first bank to move out and see the people undoubtedly helped make us known, while taking the mystery out of banking. Furthermore, people had to have faith in an idea, an institution, and I think that the best proof of this faith was the appointment of Omar Abdeljalil to head the People's Central Bank in 1961. He was a militant nationalist, not at all a banker.

Another element was definitely Moroccanization. We were the first bank to Moroccanize our upper-level personnel, to speak the same language as our customers. Finally, our success has a great deal to do with the launching of the Moroccan Workers Abroad Operation, long-distance banking, which contributed a great deal to the country and the banking sector in general, led by the People's Bank.

[Question] In other words, you did not suffer from competition from other banks.

[Answer] We benefited from certain circumstances. At the time, the banks could not make a move. They were waiting and did not know what their fate would be after independence. They stood by powerlessly, witnessing the start and development of People's Credit and obviously, we got ahead of them. But we did not bother them because we created our own clientele; we took nothing away from them. On the contrary, we brought another 500,000 Moroccans into the banking system, the workers abroad, 100,000 of whom now have accounts in banks other than ours.

[Question] Today, those banks offer practically the same products as you. Does that not frighten you?

[Answer] I am thrilled! That competition is healthy; it spurs us on. For a long time, we were off running alone, but that is not very stimulating. Furthermore, there are 16 banks in Morocco. We are ourselves a group of banks, which people too frequently forget. Each of them represents more or less what each of the other banking establishments represents. United, they make up a force.

[Question] Is it an advantage that the People's Central Bank has national capital?

[Answer] I believe it is neither an advantage nor a disadvantage. The People's Credit is made up of two elements: the People's Central Bank, which is not an issuing institute, but a commercial bank like any other, and the regional People's Banks. The latter are totally private, while the Central Bank is almost entirely national. The fact that the People's Credit does not pay taxes could be considered an advantage, but it is actually the customers who do not pay taxes. We have tried to help that portion of the customers, the PME, the craftsmen. It is a political choice and we are but the means of implementing that policy. It is not an advantage given to a banker, but rather, an advantage given to the community.

[Question] What kind of relations do the regional banks have with the Central Bank?

[Answer] That is a question which is part of the guidelines set by the Central Bank for around 1990. The fact that we have chosen to restructure the People's Banks as a backbone of our development will necessarily result in different relations. We shall have to delegate more authority in order to have better control. I will be happy when the Central Bank is no more than a general management and, in a sense, an audit.

[Question] How do you intend to get the reorganization going?

[Answer] The banks must absolutely remain on a human scale. The reorganization will be done through the transformation of People's Central Bank offices into regional banks and through the transformation of regional People's Bank branches into People's Banks. That is a normal evolution. In this way, we hope to arrive at 30 or 35 regional People's Banks, which would respond to the government's current concerns, which are the creation and development of communes, the participation of the population in the management of local affairs. This reorganization will also give young Moroccan management personnel a chance.

[Question] What place does the return of Moroccan workers abroad occupy among your future concerns?

[Answer] It is a concern, that is certain, but contrary to what many think, the People's Bank will not suffer. It will change. These are customers abroad who will now be at home. It is a gain and perhaps a new phase of development.

We shall have completed the first part, seeking out savings, and shall attack the second, loaning out those savings. It will be an enriching experience that I should like to have.

[Question] But it is a source of savings that will dry up.

[Answer] The country has other sources and I believe there are countless things to do on the local level. From 1965 to 1970, the People's Credit recorded growth of 25 to 30 percent and did it on the local market. We are still far from the European rates of banking. For example, our civil servants do not do much banking. There will be savings and we will have to go after that money.

[Question] Do you sometimes feel that you missed the bus, that you have failed?

[Answer] Yes, I have. When we tried to launch a housing savings operation, for example, the government did not follow it up. And yet, we absolutely needed its support. Individual customer insurance was also a failure, but it served as a pillar for another operation, retirement insurance or the Addamane Achaabi, which is off to a good start. In 3 to 4 months, we have already signed 8,000 contracts. I also regret not doing enough when it was still possible. Regarding new branches, for example, one could open a branch with 7,000 to 10,000 dirhams in investments a few years ago. Now it costs us a minimum of between 350,000 and 700,000.

We have also delayed operations. At the time being, we are thinking about setting up investment banks, investment funds, but we were already ready in 1974 and 1975!

[Question] Do you have wishes for the future?

[Answer] That the People's Banks retain that militant spirit that I think is being lost among our Moroccan youth. We were lucky enough to have an incentive; we were nationalists. The young people do not have that motivation. If we manage to maintain that spirit in our team, I will have no fears for the People's Credit.

[Question] Do you believe in the future of the People's Banks?

[Answer] It is the very type of bank that should succeed in all African countries. In 1961, we started in a negative situation and just look now! Morocco is right now the only African country with a system of People's Banks, but our African and particularly Ivorian friends are more and more interested. The People's Bank, because it is a tool for training, development and teaching responsibility, is in a sense the very basis of the banking system.

Moroccans Abroad

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE ECONOMIE in French Nov 86 p 155

[Article: "Moroccan Emigrants: The Goose That Laid the Golden Egg"]

[Text] As surprising as it may seem, half of the People's Bank customers live abroad. Repatriating the money of emigrant Moroccan workers now seems automatic, but someone had to think of it. In 1969, when the bank launched such an operation, the other Moroccan banks did not believe in it, but starting the very first year, money repatriated amounted to 3 million dirhams a month. Since that time, competition has gained ground, but the People's Bank retains a kind of monopoly because out of some 500,000 workers abroad, 400,000 have People's Bank accounts.

Their savings now represent two-thirds of the resources collected, gradually increasing and apparently no matter what the situation of the host country. The rate of increase of TME deposits was 27 percent between 1984 and 1985.

"With our TME customers, we go far beyond the bank framework," Laraki emphasizes. "Services such as bringing bodies home, for example, have gone far beyond the mere financial tie."

But what would become of the People's Bank if it were suddenly deprived of these resources, if the Moroccans returned home? Like its president (see interview), Elghrari, Morocco's director of the general TME delegation, is unruffled: "First of all, we are prepared for it. The TME does not leave for good, but just to work and come home richer. Furthermore, it is highly unlikely that there will be a massive return."

The TME now return at a rate of 1,000 a year, a population which Morocco is completely capable of absorbing. Those who have returned have done fairly well, if one is to believe Elghrari, setting up small businesses or farms. "They contribute something new. In the cafes, for example, the decoration is more attractive for the customer." For the others, those still abroad, the return is being prepared for by bilateral agreements between governments and through contracts with businesses. Laraki spent 3 months in Lille organizing the return of certain workers with officials of the Nord and Pas de Calais coal mines. It is a task that goes beyond the realm of the mere banker.

At the same time, in Morocco and Europe, in particular, through its two subsidiaries, the Chaabi banks in Paris and Brussels and the People's Bank are proposing specific products and services for the TME, whether to buy houses or educate children, one of the great concerns of these Moroccans living between two countries and therefore, two cultures. For example, the bank has just opened a primary school in Agadir whose purpose it is to make children totally bilingual and ease their integration into Moroccan life.

"Finally, for those who come home intending to set up small businesses, we are completing regional studies to evaluate investment possibilities. We shall

propose projects if they do not have any and supply administrative assistance," Elghrari adds.

"These customers, who were essentially savers, will thus become 'normal' customers, using loans, and what seemed to be a difficulty will have been turned into an advantage."

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CSO: 4519/41

AL-MIRGHANI APPEALS FOR END TO FIGHTING IN LEBANON

JN011915 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Dec 86

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Dec (SUNA)--State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani reviewed with the PLO representative in Khartoum today the unjust war to which the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon are being exposed, as well as Sudanese-Palestinian relations, the PLO's call for an Arab foreign ministers meeting, and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's appeal to Arab leaders.

In a statement to SUNA, PLO representative Abu Raja'i criticized the Arab silence toward the aggression against the Palestinians in Lebanon, indicating they are being exposed to heavy shelling by several forces under difficult circumstances. He added Arab sides are involved in this aggression at a time when the enemy is bombing the camps from the ground, sea, and air in support of the Amal movement which insists on burning and destroying the camps in fulfillment of the Zionist enemy's plan to remove the camps from Lebanon.

In a statement to SUNA, Al-Mirghani appealed to all warring sides to immediately end fighting so the lives of women, children, and young people, who are killed in the fighting every day, hour, and moment, can be spared. Al-Mirghani added: It is regrettable that the situation in the camps in southern Lebanon has deteriorated to such a deplorable, tragic level and there should be swift intervention to stop fighting.

Abu Raja'i praised the Sudanese stance and said the State Council chairman asserted during the meeting that Sudan fully supports the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

/9738

CSO: 4500/39

BRIEFS

LOCUSTS ATTACK CULTIVATED AREAS--Khartoum, Dec (SUNA)--A plague of locusts has recently attacked 750 thousand feddans of cultivated lands in the White Nile Province, Central Sudan, reports here said today. The reports added that the vegetables protection department is currently working to protect the area and halt the locusts spread to other areas. Numbers of European countries, U.S. and [word indistinct] have assisted Sudan and other African countries to face what was described as a dangerous locusts attack. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 0921 GMT 4 Dec 86 JN] /9738

SUDANESE-LIBYAN PROTOCOL SIGNED--Khartoum, 4 Dec (SUNA)--A protocol was signed here recently between Sudan and Libya according to which Sudan will export camel meat to Libya. Three thousand head of camel and one thousand ton of meat will be exported to Libya. Libya will pay 745 dollars per head. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA in English 0917 GMT 4 Dec 86 JN] /9738

SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS--Khartoum, 4 Dec (SUNA)--Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said that Sudan is preparing for an Arab meeting to discuss the Palestine question as a prelude to a formula or means to deal with the problems facing the Arab nation. These problems include the Gulf war, the effects of the Camp David accords, and sedition in Lebanon, and the Saharan war. Addressing a ceremony on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People organized by the Sudanese Organization for Afro-Asian Solidarity here yesterday evening, al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that Sudan's support for the Palestinian people stems from four points: Supporting the Palestinian people's struggle, working for the Palestinian people's unity under the PLO, denouncing all attempts to dominate the Palestinians, and also denouncing all plots against the Palestinians and their struggle and existence. [Excerpt] [Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Dec 86 JN] /9738

MESSAGE TO IRAQI PRESIDENT--Khartoum, 4 Dec (SUNA)--State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani has asked Iraqi Ambassador in Khartoum 'Asim al-Ja'fari to convey a written message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. This was announced by State Council sources today without referring to the contents of the message. The sources said that the message was handed to the Iraqi ambassador this morning during a meeting with the State Council chairman during which they reviewed bilateral relations as well as the results of the

work of the Sudanese-Iraqi joint committee within the framework of the economic, trade, and cultural agreements which were signed during the State Council chairman's visit to Iraq last month. They also reviewed the developments of the Iraq-Iran war and the U.S. arms deal with Iran. [Text]
[Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1709 GMT 4 Dec 86 JN] /9738

CSO: 4500/39

TUNISIA

BRIEFS

COOPERATION WITH ALGERIA--Algiers, 11 Dec 86 (APS)--The cooperation and exchanges between Tunisia and Algeria are being intensified through multiple visits by delegations between the two countries. Among them is the visit Mr. Hamed Keroui, Tunisian minister of youth and sports, and mayor of locality of Sousse, a town linked by a protocol of twinning with Constantine, is carrying in Constantine east of Algeria since Wednesday. Upon his arrival in Constantine (east of Algeria) the Tunisian minister of youth and sports visited many economic, social and cultural achievements. Also the Tunisian delegation visited the compressor and compactor complex belonging to the national company of public works material, located in the industrial zone of 'Ain Smara Constantine and visited the different departments and manufacturing workshops of the plant which produce annually some 4,000 machines of different types. Also, the delegation visited the University of Islamic Sciences (Emir Abdelkader) where it was welcomed by the director of this institution which count for the university term 86/87 some 7,000 students, including students from brotherly and friendly countries. [Text] [Algiers APS in English 1014 GMT 11 Dec 86 LD] /6662

CSO: 4500/30

REPORTS CLAIM ISRAEL AIDING MOZAMBIQUE REBELS

TA301124 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Nov 86 p 2

[Report by David Horovitz]

[Text] London--Israel is helping anti-government rebels in Mozambique, according to new evidence quoted in the press here at the weekend. Yesterday's INDEPENDENT quoted a highly-placed security source in southern Africa as saying that a white man wearing a Star of David was round dead among National Resistance Movement (MNR) guerrillas in the Tete Province of Mozambique near the Malawi border after a clash with Zimbabwean troops a few weeks ago.

The MNR guerrilla organization was set up by Ian Smith's regime in Rhodesia. After Zimbabwe was granted independence in 1980, South Africa became the group's main benefactor, although the rebels have also received backing from former Portuguese colonialists.

Israeli military advisers, the INDEPENDENT reported, are known to be based in Malawi, which is also used as a base by the MNR. Mozambique has recently accused Malawi of backing the MNR, but Malawi denies the charge.

The security sources said that the other white men killed in the recent clash appeared to be of Portuguese origin, but that the man wearing the Star of David was believed to be Israeli.

The incident coincides with a report in AFRICA ANALYSIS, a London-based journal, which states that the MNR guerrillas are receiving Israeli military instruction.

An MNR spokesman in Lisbon has denied that the movement is being aided by Israel. "This is an old accusation. They have never produced any evidence," he said.

/9599

CSO: 4400/68

ISRAELI FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES HIGHEST SINCE 1948

TA261129 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 26 Nov 86 p 6

[Text] Following the receipt of the latest U.S. grant, Israel's foreign currency reserves have reached the highest marks since the establishment of the state, standing at approximately \$4.4 billion. These reserves will be sufficient for more than 4 months of imports, a rate considered high on an international scale.

The current level of foreign currency reserves was made possible upon receipt of the \$1.2 billion U.S. grant, on top of the previous reserves that stood at \$3.2 billion.

Bank of Israel data indicates that in March 1985 Israel's foreign currency reserves plummeted to less than \$2 billion, which could cover only 2 months of imports. But in 20 months, these reserves doubled.

The new publication called 'ASQIM BEYNLE'UMIYIM [INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS], which brings this information, is being published by Dani Gov and Me'ir Tadmor (International Business Information), and Yisra'el Peled (People and Computers). The publication is a biweekly, and is the only Israeli publication that deals exclusively with international business.

/9599

CSO: 4400/68

BRIEFS

NEW IDF ADVOCATE GENERAL--A new IDF advocate general will be appointed today, Colonel Amnon Nevo-strassnoff. He will receive the rank of brigadier general and will replace Brigadier General Ben-Tziyyon Farhi, who has been appointed president of the Military Court of Appeal. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Nov 86 TA] /9599

CONCERN OVER DECLINE OF ARABIC SPEAKERS--The IDF's Intelligence Branch and Intelligence Corps are concerned over the increasing shortage of fluent Arabic speakers in Israel. Sources in the Intelligence Corps assert that each year the number of youths drafted into the IDF who are knowledgeable in the Arabic language and culture drops. This situation creates problems in manning Intelligence Corps posts. This year, only 1,000 12th graders are studying literary Arabic on the level required by the IDF. [Excerpt] [Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Dec 86 p 1] /9599

JERUSALEM ARAB POPULATION INCREASES--Jerusalem's Arab population has increased three times more than the population increase in Judaea and Samaria, and two and a half times more than the population of the Arab area around the city. The increase is due to the accelerated development in Jerusalem which has created many jobs for Arabs, and is also a result of the assistance from the Jordanian Government and the PLO. This emerges from a new study on Arab settlement trends in the Jerusalem metropolitan area conducted by the Jerusalem Institute for the Study of Israel. [Summary] [Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Dec 86 p 2 TA] /9738

DISTRIBUTION OF AL-FAJR BANNED--The Military Government has banned the distribution of the East Jerusalem paper AL-FAJR in the territories for 2 weeks. The reason for the ban is a violation of censorship regulations. Our correspondent Arye Gus points out that the paper published an interview with Yasir 'Arafat a few days ago that included words of praise for and encouragement of acts of violence. The editor of AL-FAJR told our correspondent that the ban violates the freedom of expression and harms the newspaper's financial situation because 90 percent of its readers live in the territories. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Dec 86 TA] /6662

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH TIES WITH PRC--The Labor Movement's Lavon Institute for Research has established ties with the PRC in the spheres of research and academe. Institute Chairman Yeruham Meshel has reported that the relations involve the institute and two research and culture institutes in Beijing. The Lavon Institute has also assumed sponsorship for the Israel-China Friendship Association. [Text] [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Dec 86 TA] /6662

WATER, SEWAGE PROJECTS REVIEWED

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 86 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan last year consumed 3,225 tonnes of fresh and frozen fish and 2,963 tonnes of canned fish but only produced a total of 90 tonnes from its lakes, pools and rivers, according to Dr. Mohammad Ya'qoub Al Abbadi, director of the Animal Wealth Department at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Dr. Abbadi said that Jordan should dramatically increase its fish production in both salt and fresh water in order to meet the growing demand for fish, which is rich in protein, minerals and natural oils. He said that intensive efforts are required in this respect because the average rate of individual fish consumption in Jordan is 2.3 kilogrammes annually and this is rising steadily, although it is far less than the annual world average consumption of 18 kilogrammes.

Dr. Abbadi told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the cost of producing a kilogramme of fish should not exceed 600 fils and that it can fetch a market price of JD 1 to JD 1.5 per kilo, making fish farming a lucrative venture. But, he said, sufficient water and a suitable piece of land are required and a feasibility study on the project should be conducted before any further steps can be

taken.

Fish production can be done in large pools set up on several dunums of land where fish breed feeding on different types of feed, he continued. Dr. Abbadi said this type of fish breeding requires 24 hour supervision, especially in the initial stages to ensure that the temperature and other environmental factors are constant.

Before embarking on the project, those involved should make sure that the water supplies contain no acids or other elements, such as ammonia, copper, mercury or zinc or even pesticides which may poison or kill the fish, Dr. Abbadi pointed out.

He also said that different types of fish breed at different temperatures and some breed well in salty water. Jordan, Dr. Abbadi said, lacks salt water fish, and the local production comes from fresh water rivers and pools which should be warm enough for the fish.

Apart from their nutritional value, fish can be useful in helping to eliminate bilharzia and malaria because the fish feed on snails in the water and mosquitoes which settle on the surface of the water, Dr. Abbadi added.

Referring to fish production in Jordan, Dr. Abbadi said that the largest fish farms are in the Jordan Valley where the water is warm enough for breeding and rearing. At present, most of the local production comes from the Arab Fish Company in the Jordan Valley, which is owned by the Pension Fund, the Social Security Corporation and the Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen. The company breeds and rears the fish in 42 pools which are supplied with water from the River Jordan which is constantly oxygenated.

In the experimental stage, which started in 1984, the company produced 40 tonnes of fish a year but this year it produced a total of 60 tonnes, according to Dr. Abbadi. He said that production is expected to rise to 200 tonnes in the coming year.

According to Mr. Ahmad Al Lahham, a member of the company's board, the project requires 1,200 cubic metres of water per hour and is being operated on a 17 dunum piece of land. He said that the total capital involved in the project was JD 650,000 and that the production is mostly sold in the Jordanian market.

FISH PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION DISCUSSED

Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Nov 86 p 3

[Text]

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Mahmoud Al Talhouni has said that the authority is following a well-planned policy to upgrade health, social and economic standards for residential gatherings through the provision of safe water and water for industrial and agricultural purposes, particularly in the rural areas.

He said that the authority has adopted a plan for implementing sewerage projects and purification stations to cover all residential areas with a population of at least 2,500 in addition to the various cities, villages, camps and the Jordan Valley.

Outlining the authority's projects in the fields of water treatment stations and sanitary drainage in the main cities of Jordan, Mr. Talhouni said the authority has started implementing projects in Amman and that three major projects are currently underway in the capital.

The total cost of the three projects, which are expected to be completed by mid 1987, are approximately JD 15 million.

Mr. Talhouni added that WAJ will float tenders for the construction of sewerage projects in the South and North Azraq areas to protect ground water reserves in that area as they are one of the major water resources for Amman and the neighbouring areas.

Reviewing WAJ projects in Irbid Governorate, Mr. Talhouni said that the authority is currently implementing many projects, including a purification station with a capacity of 12,000 cubic metres in addition to the construction of a 200-kilometre long main and sub network for sanitary drainage at the cost of JD 11.5 million. He added that the authority is currently constructing a purification station in Sal to serve Irbid and the neighbouring areas, in addition to the construction of a sewerage network extended 400 kilometres.

The authority is also constructing a sewerage project in Ramtha, including a 65-kilometre sanitary drainage network and a water treatment station with a capacity of 1920 cubic metres.

In Mafrqa, he said, the authority is currently constructing a JD 2,200,000 sewerage project, which includes 63 kilometres of sanitary drainage networks. Another JD 3 million is being spent on a sewerage project for Kafranja, Ajloun, Anjara and Ain Janna which will be constructed soon.

Mr. Talhouni also said that the authority has allocated JD 14 million to construct water treatment plants, purification stations and sanitary drainage networks.

The authority's projects and plans are aimed at providing all citizens with drinking water and constructing sanitary drainage networks to take wastewater to purification stations where it will be treated and utilised for agricultural projects.

/9274

CSO: 4400/72

BRIEFS

BA'TH PARTY OFFICIAL DIES--The office of the secretary general of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party announces with much sorrow and grief the death of the late Comrade Shahir 'Ali al-Talib, who joined his maker as a result of an unfortunate automobile collision in Jordan. The deceased (may God have mercy on him) joined the ranks of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in 1952, and participated in the party's struggle since that date on a national and pan-Arab level. He had the honor of participating with the Arab volunteers who fought against the Persian enemy in 1983. He was also a distinguished member of the Jordanian people's committee to support the Iraqi people's struggle, and an active member of the Association of Jordanian Lawyers. [Excerpts] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Dec 86 p 4] /9599

CSO: 4404/120

REDUCED RELIANCE ON FOREIGN FOOD SOUGHT

Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Nov 86 p 13

[Text]

THE Arab world, wary of being held to ransom for food, has served notice it must act to reduce its heavy dependence on foreign producers.

Experts say Arab states now import 75 to 80 percent of their needs to feed a total population of more than 180 million people.

Last year alone the food import bill was \$25 billion and one Arab expert estimated it could soar to 200 billion a year by the end of this century.

Steps

First moves for coordinated action to tackle the problem came at a conference on development of the Arab food industry, held in Kuwait in October.

The conference, the first of its kind held in the Arab world, called for firm steps to achieve Arab "Food Security".

It drew up a comprehensive list of proposals, to be put to the 21-member Arab League including:

- Strategic stockpiles in the oil-rich but arid Gulf.
- Collective food purchases.
- Joint farm ventures.
- Increased indigenous research.
- Genetic engineering.

Position

Experts say Arab countries are conscious of the power they wielded with oil in the 1970s, when the Opec group restricted output to the energy-hungry

West and pushed up prices threefold.

Now the Arab world does not want to end up in a position where it is at the mercy of unreliable or hostile suppliers for food imports, or caught off guard by volatile markets.

Mohammed Al Attar of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research told Reuters the growing concern was "not just economic, or political, or social — it is a combination of all these things."

The conference, brainchild of the Arab League's industrial coordinating committee heard that Arab demand for food was rising rapidly and acute shortages loomed in the wake of major socio-economic changes over the past three decades.

Strong

These included relatively strong growth in population and income levels, especially evident in the oil-exporting nations.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah warned the Arab states would suffer almost half of a 145-million-ton annual food shortfall which experts have forecast for the planet within five years.

One French expert said the ability to cover shortages with imports would be aggravated by the slump in oil prices and a doubling in the Arab population over the next 20 years.

Shipments

Fala Jabr, general-secretary of the Iraq-based Arab Federation for Food Industries, says the Arab nation has 1.3 billion hectares of land at its disposal, fed by such fertile rivers as the Nile, Tigris and Euphrates and Al-Aasy.

Yet, Arab agricultural yields are no more than half the world average, he notes.

Arab imports, says Jabr, accounted for one-fifth of the world's commercial shipments of cereals and corn, "... about 78 percent of goat and sheep meat, 33 percent of poultry meat, 27 percent eggs and 18 percent of dairy products."

He says strategic food stockpiles have been identified as a priority by Saudi Arabia and its allies in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

An expert with the Riyadh-based GCC secretariat-general says initial studies showed the costs of a joint stockpile project were unexpectedly high and an alternative is to have each GCC member build its own storage.

The \$1.7-million feasibility study on stockpiles was commissioned by the GCC in 1984 in case of possible disruption in supply routes as a result of the six-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

More than 70 merchant vessels, mainly tankers, have been

hit this year in the Gulf waterway, prompting the international association of independent tanker owners to warn that a time might come when the Gulf could be closed to shipping.

Venture

A joint American-Saudi Arabian paper presented at the Kuwait conference underlined joint farm ventures were viable for nations with complementary economic sectors.

It proposed a four-nation model which it said had the potential to meet much of the Arab world's future needs.

This involved collaboration between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait with their vast petrodollar reserves, Sudan with huge expanses of arable and grazing land, good rains and a big unskilled work force, and Egypt which would contribute skilled labour.

/6091

CSO: 4400/75

BRIEFS

ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN GULF WAR--Two recently captured Iraqi officers disclosed the military cooperation existing between Kuwait and the Iraqi regime in the imposed war. Air Force Lieutenant 'Abdallah Ismail has confirmed that there is an agreement between Kuwait and Iraq regarding permission for Iraqi fighter-bombers to pass over Kuwaiti airspace when they make raids in the Gulf area. The Air Force lieutenant added that Haytham' 'Abd-al-Hamid, commander of the airbase in which he works, assured them that there was no danger to Iraqi pilots crossing Kuwaiti airspace because there was complete coordination between the two parties in this matter. The second prisoner, Air Force Lieutenant Khalid Mahdi 'Abbas pointed out that Iraqi war planes use the Kuwait International Airport and also disclosed that Iraqi planes use the Kuwait airport for refueling after making bombing raids over the Iranian island of Siri. [Text] [Beirut AL-'AHD in Arabic 8 Nov 86 p 7] /6662

CONSCRIPTS RELEASE URGED--The Undersecretary at the Education Ministry, Abdul Rahman Al Khodari has issued a decision to all officials at the ministry's departments, controls schools and kindergartens, requesting them to release all employees falling under the Compulsory Military Conscription Act. The decision stated that recruits should be Kuwaitis, with a minimum age of 14 years and a maximum age of 40 at the time the decision was first issued in August 1981. Recruits should not have completed their elementary school education or any courses to obliterate their illiteracy. The authorities are required to provide personal data on these recruits, taken from their personnel and pay-roll files. This data should be ready within 15 days of the decision's issue date. [Text] [Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 30 Nov 86 p 13] /6091

MINISTER DEPARTS FOR OPEC TALKS--Kuwait, Dec 10 (KUNA)--Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah Wednesday left for Geneva at head of Kuwait's delegation to ministerial meetings of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries scheduled to open here Thursday. The minister is accompanied by board chairman of the Kuwait Oil Tankers Company 'Abd al-Fattah al-Bakf, executive assistant to managing director for marketing affairs of the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation 'Abdallah al-Rumi, and director of the Minister's Office Farid Zabbal and oil expert Suhayl al-Nasir. [Text] [Kuwait KUNA in English 1618 GMT 10 Dec 86 LD] /6662

OPEC PLENARY SESSION DELAYED--Geneva, Dec 15 (KUNA)--OPEC oil ministers Monday decided to delay their expected morning plenary session until late in the day in order to allow more time for behind-the-scenes consultations, delegates said. Among the meetings held this morning was one between Saudi Arabia's Hisham Nazir and conference president Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria, they added. The main obstacle in talks continued to be Iranian and Iraqi output demands, they went on. [Text] [Kuwait KUNA in English 1000 GMT 15 Dec 86 LD] /6662

CSO: 4400/76

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES ECONOMIC MEASURES, POLICY

JN152130 Oman DAILY OBSERVER in English 13 Dec 86 p 1

[Text] The Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs, Qays ibn 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, has said the Sultanate's stable economy had ruled out any further devaluation or a change in the tax law.

In an interview with UMAN NEWSPAPER, sister publication of the OMAN DAILY OBSERVER, Mr Al-Zawawi said measures taken by the Government in the wake of the decline in oil prices had proved effective, making it unnecessary at this juncture to re-evaluate the Omani rial or impose taxes on companies.

On next year's budget, he said it would reflect the guidelines voiced by His Majesty Sultan Qabus in the 16th National Day speech. Special attention would be paid to the development of agriculture, fisheries and the light industries sectors.

Importance would also be given to the operation of projects already constructed and the implementation of new public welfare projects in the wilayats.

Mr Al-Zawawi said the devaluation earlier this year had helped "remarkably" to ease the balance of payments position.

The Omani rial was devalued as a protective measure to keep sound the balance of payments on the one hand and to reduce imports and cash transfers by expatriates and foreign companies as well as to increase revenues from the rial's new value on the other hand," he said.

He added: "I would stress that devaluation helped remarkably to deal with this aspect of the problem."

As regards taxes, Mr Al-Zawawi said the Sultanate was not considering high customs duties or direct taxes to raise revenues.

"In the present situation of stagnant commercial activities, the Government is not in favour of fixing new taxes on Omani companies," Mr Al-Zawawi declared.

He, however, said the Sultanate's financial policy was flexible and in tune with existing realities. The policy would be reviewed when necessary.

In answer to a question about the Sultanate's financial condition, Mr Al-Zawawi said: "The financial situation is sound and it maintains its financial equilibrium and economic stability."

He observed that the budget commitments for the current year had been met to a large extent despite lower public expenditure.

Giving figures he said total Government expenditure this year until October amounted to nearly R01,495 million against R01,594 million for the corresponding period last year.

Mr Al-Zawawi said a series of measures the Government took to counter the effects from a slump in oil prices had proved effective. These were the devaluation in the Omani rial, a 10 per cent reduction in public expenditure and a reallocation of priorities concerning projects.

"I can say that the measures realised their objectives. Stability returned to the Omani rial's exchange rate. The balance of payment was restored and local liquidity was made available for the promotion of economic activity in the production and services sectors."

He added that these measures made available funds for welfare projects that directly affected the interests of nationals.

In reply to a question on whether a new packet of measures was being considered to meet any slump in oil prices that may arise in the future, Mr Al-Zawawi said the Sultanate had already made long-term projections aimed at taking care of a difficult situation that may occur in the future.

Elaborating on the Sultanate's long-term financial policy, he said it was based on the following considerations:

--A diversification of the sources of national income and an increase in non-oil exports.

--Allotting the private sector a bigger role in economic activity.

--Encouraging production to reduce dependence on commodity imports.

--Development of local manpower resources through training to enable nationals to take their proper place in the country's economy.

--A reduction in expenditure on infrastructural projects in sectors where much had already been accomplished.

In answer to another question, Mr Al-Zawawi said the Ministers' Board had decided to reduce electricity and gas charges and rent at industrial estates in order to boost industrial activity.

He said that while details of the reduction in electricity charges would be released later, the rent per square metre at the Rusayl Industrial Estate would be 500 baysa for the period until the end of the fifth year of operation. Beyond that, the rent would be at the old rate of R01 per square metre.

The price of natural gas had been reduced from US\$2.83 to \$2.08 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Asked whether the delay in the Tornado aircraft deal would not hurt the Sultanate's economic reputation, Mr Al-Zawawi said the deal was not delayed but that the delivery dates were reprogrammed.

Mr Al-Zawawi said in light of the Sultanate's economic interests, it would be prudent to reassign priorities taking into account the international and local economic situation.

In answer to another question, Mr Al-Zawawi said efforts were in progress to have common economic and financial laws for all GCC states, but this would take time.

He added that whatever the GCC states had accomplished in a short while since the formation of the group was creditable. [as received]

Mr Al-Zawawi also expressed confidence that the price of oil would touch \$18 per barrel soon.

/6662

CSO: 4400/79

SYRIA

BRIEFS

UNREST IN NORTHERN CITIES--Information coming from North Syria, conveyed by Syrian citizens upon their arrival in Beirut, indicates that the northern Syrian cities, specifically Halab, Hims, and al-Qamishli, witnessed terrible tension 2 weeks ago, when a popular demonstration in Halab took place to protest the arrest of three imams. The demonstration was marked by people shouting for the fall of the regime. It was suppressed immediately after units of the Syrian Army appeared. At the same time, a series of explosions took place near Syrian intelligence headquarters in Halab, which resulted in six people dead and a number of others wounded. Similar explosions also occurred in the city of Hims. In the city of al-Qamishli, bands of farmers attacked the local police headquarters. They asked the Syrian Government to keep the promises which it had made previously regarding supplying them with financial and agricultural aid. [Text] [London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11-17 Dec 86 p 5] /9599

CSO: 4404/120

SOVIET MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DELIVERED

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 1 Sep 86 p 4

[Text]

MOSCOW, (TASS)—

The Soviet Union has completed supplies to Afghanistan of equipment for that country's first blood transfusion station which is to open late this year.

The station is built and assembled jointly by Soviet and Afghan specialists. Medical men from the two countries will work there. Specialists from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan underwent advanced training in the Soviet Union.

The station is being set up at the Central Out-Patient Clinic which has been in operation in Kabul for a year already. It was also built with Soviet technological assistance. The Soviet Union delivered diagnostic and therapeutic equipment.

Cooperation between Soviet and Afghan physicians has long-standing traditions. In 1976, the

USSR turned over gratis to the DRA a 400-bed hospital. Plans are drawn up to modernize it. Soviet architects now draft a project of a treatment and prosthetics centre to be built in Kabul.

A Republican Sanitary-Epidemiologic Station was set up also by joint efforts of Soviet and Afghan specialists. The establishment of the Kabul Medical Institute has been a major result of cooperation. Soviet lecturers conduct studies and do research work at its departments jointly with colleagues from the DRA.

Hundreds of young people from Afghanistan will begin the new academic year on September 1 at Soviet Medical Institutes, secondary specialized schools and attend post-graduate courses. Student grants have been allotted for them.

/9274

CSO: 4600/75

DRUG PRODUCTION TO INCREASE 73 PERCENT

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 25 Aug 86 p 1

[Text] Kabul--Drug production in the country will increase by 73 percent in the first five-year socio-economic plan, compared to 1985.

Today, a variety of medicines are being manufactured in pharmaceutical plants in the country. They are cheaper and effective compared to similar items imported from abroad.

A BIA correspondent reports that on an average, Afs 450 million worth of medicines and medical equipment that could not be supplied internally are being imported from abroad each year.

All possible efforts are exerted by the state so that the needs of the countrymen for medicines could be met to the maximum. For instance, 90 state-run drug stores will be newly opened in the capital and in provinces during the five year plan. Out of them, 18 will be set up during the current year in Kabul and other provinces.

Now, 73 state-owned pharmacies are functioning all over the country. Twenty-eight of them are only in Kabul city, which together with 269 private ones, serve the needs of the city's population. The state-run pharmacies offer drugs 12 percent cheaper than the market prices.

A total of eight hundred and nine private pharmacies exist in the capital and in provinces.

Essential medicines like anti-biotics, narcotics, psychotherapeutic medicines, medical alcohol, different kinds of tablets and ampules are produced by the pharmaceutical plants of the country and distributed to pharmacies and hospitals.

/9274

CSO: 4600/76

TEXTILE COMPANY OVERFULFILLS PRODUCTION PLAN

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 29 Sep 86 p 1

[Article by Farouq]

[Text] "The Afghan Joint textile mills Company has produced around 18 million meters of different kinds of cloths at a value of 665 million Afs during the first six months of the current year and thus overfulfilled the plan by 3 per cent, i.e., 638,000 meters comparing to the corresponding period of last year." The above was stated by a spokesman of the mill to a KNT correspondent.

The mill is consisted of seven production units of which three (Gulbahar, Pul-e-Khumri and Jabulsaraj mills) are active in Kapisa, Baghlan and Parwan provinces and the rest (Guzargah and Kabul mills, Kabul knitting and Kabul spinning) are functioning in the capital.

The mill produces different kinds of plain and printed cotton, fine woollen and cloths, including blankets which is qualitatively and quantitatively better and cheaper than exported cloths.

The spokesman added that the mill has sold 13 million metres of cloths through its 15 wholesale and 280 retail stores in capital and provinces and made an income of over 475 million Afghanis.

The mill has 6,334 workers, 3,664 knitting machines and 97,244 spindles. The spokesman further added that the production of the mill besides meeting the needs of the working people, and prevention of currency outflow, plays an important role in raising the economic level of the country. It employs over 7,000 workers and employees.

The mill also has an oxygen production unit that its production meets the requirements of technical workshops inside the mill and other technical institutions in the country.

It was established in 1936 with an initial capital of 40 million Afghanis. The present capital of the mill is over 1,427 million Afs out of which 70 per cent is state's and the rest is private share.

/9274

CSO: 4600/77

IMPROVED SEEDS ENTERPRISE TO BOOST PRODUCTION

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 10 Nov 86 pp 1, 2

[Article by Ibrahim]

[Text]

With the implementation of the first five year plan after the revolution, great changes will occur in the activity of the Improved Seeds Enterprise and the level of its production and distribution. As per the plan the production of improved wheat seeds will reach 20,000 tons, cotton seeds 80,000 tons vegetable seeds 1.5 tons and sugar beet seeds 30 tons.

The enterprise has distributed 16,000 tons of improved wheat seeds, of which 10,000 tons were the gratis aid of the Soviet Union, to agricultural cooperatives, state farms and individual peasants during the spring and autumn sowing campaign in the current year which shows 100 per cent plan implementation.

The enterprise has distributed to individual cotton growers in Balkh,

Herat and Kunduz provinces in the spring sowing campaign 6,000 tons of cotton seeds of which 1000 were gratis aid of the Soviet Union.

It has also distributed 12 tons of sugar beet seeds and 430 kg vegetable seeds to sugar beet growers of Baghlan province and vegetable growers of Kabul city.

The enterprise, besides the distribution of the above seeds, has given two or three million vegetable and fruit bearing saplings to vegetable growers and horticulturists. Apart from equipping the state farms with modern agricultural equipment, it would establish three big propagatory farms in Balkh, Takhar and Herat provinces.

It plans to build well-equipped green houses for growing vegetable saplings, 29 godowns and seven modern laboratories

to examine the quality of improved seeds in capital as well as in the provinces of which two have been completed and commissioned with economic and technical assistance of the Soviet Union in Kabul and Balkh provinces.

It will also purchase 29 trucks by 1990 from the Soviet Union for transporting the seeds to the remote villages of the country.

To produce and propagate improved seeds, it has set up five propagatory farms in Helmand, Kandahar, Ghazni, Baghlan and Kunduz provinces from which 1200 tons improved wheat seeds were obtained.

Moreover it has four small propagatory farms for improved vegetable seeds which have had positive results in the improvement of vegetables.

BIG JUMP IN IRRIGATION FORECAST

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 6 Nov 86 p 2

[By Farouq]

[Text]

With the implementation of the first five-year plan after the revolution, 8,000 hectares of new land will be provided irrigation in Larkhwani and Khwaja Alwan farms of Baghlan province and Kokcha farm of Takhar province.

With the plan implementation, an increase of 93 million Afghanis will occur in the value of wheat, cotton and sugar-beet production of the two provinces.

Also after the renovation and rectification of existing irrigation systems, an area of 55,000 hectares will be brought under irrigation in Khanabad, Hazhda Nahr, Nahr Lashkari and Shamalan projects that would increase the value of wheat and cotton products by 172 million Afghanis. This is five times more than in the past five years.

To reclaim salt-marsh of lands of Nadi Ali, Marja, Bughrai Ulla, Sha-

mala and Darwishan, the construction of drainage would be continued. With the implementation of this programme, the production of wheat and cotton will be raised to the value of 55 million Afghanis by the year 1369 HS (beginning March 21, 1990 and ending March 20, 1991).

Further, the existing irrigation establishments will be repaired, maintained and reconstructed. And, thus water will be supplied to an area of 500,000-550,000 hectares continuously.

Likewise, 35 ordinary and 35 deep wells will be dug in frontier provinces and on the routes of nomads and live-stock-breeders with the assistance and cooperation of the Ministry of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs. The implementation of this plan will provide water for an area of 600,000 hectares of farm land and pastures.

To finance and develop the above irrigation

systems as anticipated in the five-year socioeconomic development plan, 5.2 billion Afghanis have been allocated from internal resources and 36.5 million dollars from the assistance of foreign countries. This figure is 2.5 times more than the sum spent in the past five years.

Briefing the above in an interview to our correspondent, Ahmad Shah Sorkhabi, Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources said: The increase of agricultural production, supply of raw material to industry and meeting the needs of the people in foodstuffs have a direct link with the development of irrigation and water resources.

"According to prevailing data, the size of existing irrigable lands is 2.8 million hectares in the country, of which 1.65 million hectares get fairly sufficient water. Out of the irrigable land 1.36 million hectares are ir-

rigated by traditional irrigation systems and 1.33 million by modern irrigation systems".

Surkhabi said: "The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources has newly brought 2,900 hectares of land under irrigation since its establi-

shment, and improved the irrigation of an area of 20,000 hectares. Also in the years after the revolution, dra'ns irrigating 4,500 hectares were improved at a cost of 2.1 billion Afghanis, financed from internal resources. And the construction of metal products plant with a capacity of 3,000 tons, is nearing completion.

"So far 536 peasants' committees have been set up throughout the country, and as many as 861 water superintendents have been elected as the heads of these committees.

"Peasants' committees for water consumers, whose main task is just distribution of water to peasants and to solve the disputes of farmers regarding water distribution, have also been set up.

"To assist and cooperate with peasants, the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources gives its machinery and lubricants to the peasants on voluntary work days for cleaning canals, subterranean canals, and for repairing and fortification of dams, etc.

"The Ministry was constituted in 1361 HS to modernise the irrigation systems, justly distribute water and expand area of irrigation in accordance with the scientifically prepared plan as per the decree of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA."

/9274

CSO: 4600/76

KABUL DOMESTIC FLIGHT TERMINAL INAUGURATED

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 6 Nov 86 p 4

[Text]

KABUL, (BIA)—

The Kabul International Airport's domestic flight terminal was inaugurated and commissioned yesterday by Maj. Gen. Mohammad Rafie, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA, and P.P. Mozhaev, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union to the DRA.

The establishments of terminal, which is a part of the extension project of Kabul airport, has been built jointly by Afghan and Soviet engineers and experts, would provide more facilities for domestic flights.

Before the inauguration, Maj. Gen. Rafie attended a function held in the terminal by construction workers and employees of the airport. The commissioning of the establishments is of immense importance for civil aviation, Rafie said.

He added: "The role of air transport is important, for there are cer-

tain problems in land transportation due to geographical conditions of our country.

The state and the party have focussed keen attention on air transport. As per the instruction of the resolutions of the 18th and 19th plenums of the PDPA Central Committee, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has carried out certain tasks in this connection in different parts of the country.

The Soviet Union, this honest friend of the people of Afghanistan, besides rendering assistance in socio-economic spheres, has also contributed and will contribute to the civil aviation the outstanding example of which is the extension project of the Kabul airport."

The extension project has 36 construction establishments with a total volume of 100,000 cum. and its domestic flight terminal has been completed.

The terminal has been built in 11987 cum. and is equipped with modern facilities, including ve-

ntilation, central heating, power and water supply, drainage, fire extinguishing and telephone systems.

Faqir Ahmad, the head of the terminal, presenting information in detail, said: "The terminal includes waiting lounge, cafeteria, mother and child room, technical shops, administrative and security offices that give better services to passengers.

Alexander Petrov, Economic Counsellor of the embassy of the Soviet Union said: "The successful completion of the establishments of the airport which has been commissioned before the plan is a great success for the Afghan engineers and workers and the Soviet experts."

Petrov added that the terminal has been commissioned in honour of the 69th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. He regarded the Kabul airport as the air gate of internationalistic friendship.

BRIEFS

HEALTH SERVICES EXPANDED--To extend and improve medical services to the population considerable growth in the health services is envisaged in the first five year plan of socio-economic growth of the country after the revolution. According to the data released by the State Planning Committee most plan indices in the field of public health have noticeably improved in the first half of this year. During this period, over 900,000 patients were examined and treated in the hospitals of the capital and provinces and over 30,000 were admitted to hospitals. A large number of the women received family guidance association's assistance. Hundreds of thousands of children and mothers were treated through state child hospitals, child health institute and mother and child health clinics. In the sphere of preventive medicine, the vaccination campaign has considerably expanded during the first six months of the current year. More than one million were vaccinated throughout the country. The increase in the number of beds in hospitals, physicians, pharmacists, state run pharmacies and health clinics is also worth mentioning. [Text] [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 3 Nov 86 p 1] /9274

BOLAN IRRIGATION CANAL COMPLETED--Lashkargah, (BIA)--The work of digging the irrigation canal of Bolan desert was completed recently. It was commissioned by installation of two water pumps having the capacity of one cubic meter per second each. According to a spokesman for general department of Helmand and Arghandab valley development project the 5.5 km-long canal has built of a cost of five million. Afghanis from the state budget by the department with the cooperation of fraternal Soviet experts. The canal would provide water for an area of 300 hectares of land of 160 Qazaq and Hazara peasant families. Based on the current year plan, drainage system of 150 hectares of land costing Afs nine million has been planned. By its completion 2,000 hectares of Bolan desert will be brought under cultivation by Bofar canal, the source added. Eshan Maawia, one of the Qazaq chieftains said that each peasant family had been given eight jeribs of land (five jeribs equal one hectare) for cultivation and one for building residential house. He went on that they were thankful for the humane assistance of the state and ready for any devotion for the realization of the April Revolution objectives. [Text] [Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 6 Oct 86 p 1] /9274

CSO: 4600/76

DETAILS OF TRADE AGREEMENT WITH THAILAND

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 6 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Thailand has agreed to make concerted efforts to expand the volume of trade between Bangladesh and Thailand and also to achieve balanced trade between the two countries, according to a message received here yesterday reports BSS.

The two countries have also agreed to establish an overall annual trade target of one hundred million US dollars by 1989 under an agreement signed between the two countries in Bangkok.

Mr. A. B. M. Ghulam Mustafa, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, who is currently leading a four-member delegation to the first meeting of Bangladesh Thailand Joint Committee on Trade signed the agreed minutes on behalf of Bangladesh. The Thai government was represented by Mr. Baji Israsena, Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

Over the last three days, the two delegations held intensive discussions on finding out ways and means to expand and diversify trade between the two countries on the basis of mutual advantage.

The Thai delegation further agreed to make their utmost efforts and adopt positive measures to import Bangladeshi export items like jute and jute products, frozen seafoods, tea, hides and skin, crust and finished leather, newsprints, pulp and paper, naptha, bitumen pharmaceutical products, wires and cables and light industrial products.

They have also agreed that whenever they are in need of importing these items, priority would be given to the Bangladeshi products.

Following the discussions between the two delegations about the operation of special trading arrangement for augmentation of the two-way trade between the two countries, the Thai delegation also agreed to encourage its private sector to conclude a special trading arrangement with the trading corporation of Bangladesh by the end of this year.

The Thai delegation has also invited a trade mission of Bangladesh comprising the exporters of particular products. In order to facilitate further promotion of trade, the two delegations also agreed that their respective central banks could examine the possibility of entering into special financial arrangement.

As a follow-up of the agreement of cooperation signed between the Bangladesh Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Board of Trade of Thailand in June 1986, the two delegations also agreed to encourage exchange of trade information trade missions, participation in international trade fairs and exhibitions organized in the two countries with a view to bringing the traders in direct contact.

/12828

CSO; 4600/1234

NEPAL WATER-SHARING TALKS TERMED FRUITFUL

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 7 Nov 86 p 3

[Article by Mustafa Tareq]

[Text]

With the three-day trip to Nepal by the joint committee of experts the water sharing issue prevailing between India and Bangladesh entered a new phase though it would require a political decision from both the sides to include the third country.

After the return of the JCE members of the Bangladesh side to Dhaka a press release was issued which said that the tour was fruitful and talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and Nepal agreed to extend cooperation whenever needed.

The inclusion of Nepal still seems to be the crux of the problem. In late July this year Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India and President Hussain Ershad reached an agreement to seek the cooperation of Nepal in augmenting the dry season flow of the Ganges.

The agreement was interpreted in two ways in the two countries. Bangladesh expected Nepal would be included in the water-sharing talks henceforth while the Indians stuck to their attitude of keeping the

status of the Ganges water sharing problem as a bilateral one.

A member of the JCE from Bangladesh, however, said that the Nepalese side expressed their keen interest to cooperate if Nepal was included as a party.

When the JCE handed over its proposal of erecting seven barrages at different places of the hilly basin of the Ganges they said they had similar plans to erect as many as 30 barrages in which the seven were included.

Officially they, however, took the data supplied by the JCE for review with the commitment of handing over the data from the Nepalese side sometime later.

Meanwhile, the JCE that was formed last November during the signing of the memorandum of understanding at the ministerial level has almost neared the expiry of its term of office. The JCE was supposed to submit its report at the end of its one-year tenure.

There is, however, considerable doubt whether the JCE would be able to submit its report. Most likely the JCE would end up with a call to the minis-

tries of their respective governments to take up the issue at the highest political level.

Without the inclusion of Nepal any technical survey or any political decision would be incomplete and non-functional because Nepal is the principal source of natural water for one billion people of the sub-continent.

Experts believe that Nepal has the capability of storing 174 cubic kilometers water in the dry season while almost half of it amounting to 83 cubic kilometers was enough to provide irrigation, navigation and other facilities to the Ganges basin flowing through the vast plains of India and Bangladesh.

A report compiled by a Nepalese expert, however, put the figure at 120 cubic kilometers.

Whatever be the exact quantity of the water reserve the water has to be channelized at a uniform rate throughout the year and its spillage through a turbine could generate cheap hydro-electric power.

Some informed quarters believe that then again the question of priority would arise. India may increase its demand of the Ganges

water flow by construction of major water works in the upstream.

The existing agreement, however, keeps no bar on India for upstream extraction. India has made Farakka the basis of water sharing, the sharing being based on the quantity of water available at Farakka.

Nepal is interested in erecting the barrages and to generate hydel power while both India and Bangladesh would buy that power. Any such project would be a massive task for any one of the three countries.

With the Saarc spirit of cooperation everybody is looking ahead toward the ensuing Saarc summit at Bangalore, India, for a collective approach for the development of the water resources of the region for mutual benefit paving the way for inclusion of Nepal in the Joint Rivers' Commission and the Joint Committee of Experts on water.

It was in the launching summit of Saarc in Dhaka last December that Nepalese King Birendra made a call for utilizing the water resources of Nepal for the common benefit of the region.

PAPERS REPORT ON ENDING OF MARTIAL LAW

Parliament Proceedings, Ershad Speech

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

President Ershad announced on Monday the withdrawal of the Martial Law and the revival of the constitutional rule in the country.

His announcement came within four hours and 22 minutes after the approval of the Seventh Amendment Bill by the Jatiyo Sangshad on the day.

In an address to the nation over the radio and television, the President stated that the sacred pledge that he made to the nation four and a half years ago for transition to democracy had been redeemed with the completion of the last phase of the process for establishing democracy in the country.

President Ershad observed that the withdrawal of the Martial Law would usher in a new era in the history of the nation. The seed of democracy he felt would grow to its full with "our careful nurturing". He appealed to all to help build a strong foundation for the democratic structure.

He reiterated his Government's firm commitment to a multi-party democracy. He stressed the need for a far-sighted approach to help nourish a multi-party system.

The President said that the foremost duty before the present generation was to ensure a stable, permanent political system based on democratic traditions and norms for the posterity. He observed that all-out efforts were necessary to build a brighter future and a stable society.

He said that he had signed the necessary orders for lifting the Martial Law and accordingly

"Martial Law has been withdrawn". He thanked the people and the national Parliament for all-out cooperation at every stage in the process of transition to democracy. "By approving the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution the national Parliament has paved the way for reviving the suspended Constitution and establishing full democratic rule."

[as published]

all irrespective of party affiliations and opinions to place the country and the nation above everything else, discarding malice, confrontation, revenge and narrow partisan outlook". He urged all to prove their unfettered dedication and honesty towards people's welfare and democratic values. He noted that the pre-requisites for unhindered growth of democracy are tolerance to the opinion of others and respect to each other. "The society which has no tolerance cannot have the strength to preserve democracy", he added.

The President stated in a democratic society, a party or an alliance goes to power while others sit in the Opposition. "In a democratic process party in power changes but the state and the Government continue as the flow of a river", he said. He observed that the Opposition could glorify their role as the force for stability and not otherwise.

He pointed out that he made sincere and untiring efforts to return to constitutional rule within two years from the date he accepted the responsibility of running the administration on

march 24, 1982. He stated that the task could not be accomplished in time and it took four and a half years to reach the stage for the withdrawal of the Martial Law. He said the reason for the delay in lifting the Martial Law is known to all.

Text of speech

Following is the English rendering of address to the nation by President Hossain Muhammad Ershad over radio and television network on Monday, reports BSS.

"Today I like to say a few words on an auspicious moment of great significance in the history of our nation and the country. It is a matter of great happiness that the Seventh Amendment Bill was adopted on Monday by the National Parliament which was elected by your active participation. All actions, reforms and laws effected by my Government since March 24, 1982 as of Monday have been approved through the adoption of this bill. The sacred pledge that I made to you four and a half years ago for transition to democracy was fulfilled on Monday with the completion of the last phase of the process for establishing democracy. At the inaugural session of Third National Parliament of the country on July 10 I said, 'I hope to get your cooperation for lifting Martial Law within the shortest possible time without creating any constitutional and legal vacuum or problem.'

That hope of mine has been fulfilled. I got all out cooperation from my countrymen and from the National Parliament at every stage in the process of

transition to democracy. Elections to the National Parliament and of the President were held peacefully and in a disciplined manner. You extended spontaneous and massive support to me in the presidential election. By approving the seventh amendment to the constitution, the National Parliament has paved the way for reviving the constitution and establishing full democratic system in the country.

"This is not only the success of untiring efforts on my part and that of my Government and the materialising of the dream nurtured in the core of my heart but also fulfilled the aspirations of lakhs of martyrs of our great War of Independence and wishes of the people. Today marks the beginning of a new era of history. This is the era of democracy, era of triumph of ensuring the rights of the people and era of progress traversing the path of democracy.

"I express gratitude to Allah, the merciful on this long-cherished occasion and seek his blessings to give me the strength to march forward with firm steps as the fore-runner of this new journey. On this day of success marking by glorious triumph, I convey my felicitations and gratitude to you all.

"My dear countrymen, while accepting the responsibility of running the administration of the country in March 1982 I pledged that we will return to democratic and constitutional rule within two years. But we could not accomplish that. It took four and a half years to reach to this stage of today. You know the reasons behind this delay. I myself and my Government have put in our sincere efforts with utmost patience for the last four years and a half for accomplishing that objective of ours in fulfilment of

our pledge. The situation and atmosphere at many a time were not favourable. But we did not lose heart in our initiatives because the responsibility of attaining the great objective that we assigned to ourselves was part of our belief. With your active cooperation, we have once again proved that if the goal is set and belief is firm, Allah surely makes our bid a success.

"I have announced in the Jatiya Sangshad that we have no intention to prolong Martial Law for even a day more than it is required. I am announcing with happiness that today I have signed the necessary orders with regard to the lifting of Martial Law and accordingly the Martial Law has been withdrawn.

"My dear countrymen, in the past you have extended all co-operation without any reservation. Today, on this auspicious occasion of transition to democracy, I seek more cooperation from you all. The seed of democracy which has germinated today will grow to its full shape with our careful nurturing. Let us give the democratic structure we have built a strong foundation and Permanency.

The people of Bangladesh want Multi-party democracy. I myself and my Government also believe in multi-party democratic society. Despite differences of opinions, the pre-requisites for unhindered growth of democracy are tolerance to others opinions and respect to each other. The society which has no tolerance cannot have the strength to preserve democracy. In a democratic society, a party

or an alliance goes to power under the constitutional process, while others sit in the Opposition bench. In democratic process, party in power changes, but the state and the Government continue as the flow of river.

There are many parties and opinions in our society and it will be there in future as well. History demands farsightedness from all of us. The Opposition parties can glorify their position as the force for stability and not otherwise. Today our foremost duty is to ensure a stable present, build a brighter future and play the role of fore-runner for a stable society based on democratic traditions and norms for posterity.

"My dear countrymen, on this auspicious day I call upon all, irrespective of party affiliations and opinions, to place the country and the nation above everything, discarding malice, confrontation, revenge and narrow partisan outlook. Let us prove our unfattered dedication and honesty towards peoples welfare and democratic values.

"Accept my felicitations on this joyous moment. It is of my satisfaction that by the grace of Almighty Allah, the merciful and with your sincere cooperation the pledge I made to you for transition to democracy on March 24, 1982 has been fulfilled. I express my gratitude to Allah and sincere thanks to you all."

Khoda Hafiz, Bangladesh Zindabad.

More on Proceedings, Amendment Text

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Seventh Amendment to the Constitution validating all Proclamations Orders during the Martial Law period since March 24, 1982 was passed with 223 votes on Monday in the Parliament. There was no vote against the seventh Amendment Bill. The Bill was passed in five hours time.

Members belonging to Bangla

desh Awami League and its allies in the Eight-party Alliance and Jamaat-e-Islami boycotted the session. The session was prorogued after the Bill was passed.

Two Baksal MPs Sardar Amjad Hussain and Mr Shadquul Islam Khoka (component of Eight-party Alliance) attended the session and voted for the

BILL

Syed Maqbul Hussain an Independent MP who joined the Jatiya Party abstained. He is now in London. He has also deshed Awami League.

Those who voted for the Bill are 208 members of Jatiya Party four members of JSD (Rab) four members of Bangladesh Muslim League three Members of JSD

(Strife), two members of Baksal Mr Ahmedul Kabir and Mrs Laila Siddiqui two Independent severed his connection with Jatiya Jarty and joined Bangla-Members

One Awami League MP Mr. Abbasuddin Mandal from Joy-purhat joined the session in the morning But he was not found at the time of voting

Introducing the Bill Law Minister Justice A.K.M Nurul Islam told the parliament that the Bill was very important in our national life He appealed to the members to pass the Bill for facilitating the withdrawal of Martial Law.

The Opposition members Mr Ayenuddin (ML) as A.S.M Abdur Rab (JSD) Mr Sultan Raja (JSD) Sardar Amjad Hossain (Baksal) and Laila Siddiqui (Independent) speaking on the Bill said Martial Law can not do any good to the people and since the passing of the Bill would hasten the withdrawal of Martial Law they assured to support the Bill.

Speaking for the Bill the Deputy Prime Ministers Mr Maudud Ahmed Dr M.A. Matin and Kazi Jafar Ahmed said the passing of the Bill is a historic event in our national life They said it meant the withdrawal of Martial Law revival of the Constitution and restoration of fundamental rights and freedom of Press.

Winding up the discussion Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Choudhury called for national consensus on major national issues and asked them to sink all differences for furthering the cause of national development.

Rules of Procedures

Clauses waived

Mr. Maudud Ahmed sought waiver of a number of Clauses of the Rules of Procedures to facilitate the passing of the Bill expeditiously. The first waiver was passed by the House exempting the requirement of seven days notice to introduce the Bill Mr Maudud further requested the Speaker to waive the clause 78,79 and 82 of the House waived those Clauses The Clause 90 of the Rules of Procedure was also Rules of Procedure and the waived and the Bill was passed under Rule 90 (B) of the Rules

of Procedure passing the Bill as a whole.

The Bill was introduced at 10-30 a.m and was passed at 3-15 p.m through a division. All members inside the House participated in voting Mr Ahmedul Kabir entered the House just before the division and he was persuaded by Kazi Jafar Ahmed and others to take part in voting He voted finally.

The session was presided over by Speaker Mr. Shamsul Huda Choudhury.

Text of Seventh

Amendment Act

1. Short title—This Act may be called the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act 1986.

2. Amendment of Article 96 of the Constitution—in the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh hereinafter referred to as the Constitution in Article 96 in Clause (1), for the word "Sixty-two the word" Sixty-five shall be substituted.

3. Amendment of Fourth Schedule to the Constitution—In the Constitution in the Fourth Schedule after Paragraph 18 the following new Paragraph 19 shall be added namely:—

19. Ratification and confirmation of the Proclamation of the 24th March 1982 etc—(1) the Proclamation of the 24th March 1982 hereinafter in this paragraph referred to as the said Proclamation and all other Proclamations Proclamation Orders Chief Martial Law Administrator's Orders Martial Law Regulations Martial Law Orders Martial Law Instructions Ordinances and all other laws made during the period between the 24th March 1982 and the date of commencement of the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act 1986 (of 1986 both days inclusive) hereinafter in this paragraph referred to as the said period are hereby ratified and confirmed and declared to have been validly made and shall not be called in question in or before any court tribunal or authority on any ground whatsoever

2) All Orders made Acts and things done and actions and proceedings taken or purported to have been made, done or taken by the President or the Chief Martial Law Administrator or by any other person or authority during the said period, in exercise or purported exercise of the powers derived from the said Proclamation or from any other Proclamation Proclamation Order, Chief Martial

Law Instruction Order Martial Law Regulation Martial Law Order Martial Law Instruction, Ordinance or any other law or in execution of or in compliance with any Order made or sentence passed by any court tribunal or authority in the exercise or purported exercise of such powers shall be deemed to have been validly made done or taken and shall not be called in question in or before any court tribunal or authority on any ground whatsoever.

(3) No suit prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie in any court or tribunal against any person or authority for or on account of or in respect of any Order made Act or thing done or action or proceedings taken whether in the exercise or purported exercise of the powers referred to in Sub-paragraph (2) or in execution of or in compliance with Orders made or sentences passed in exercise or purported exercise of such powers

(4) All appointments made during the said period to any office mentioned in the Third Schedule shall be deemed to have been validly made and shall not be called in question in or before any court tribunal or authority on any ground whatsoever and any person appointed under the said Proclamation to any such office during the said period and holding such office immediately before the date of commencement of the Constitution (Seventh Amendment) Act 1986 (of 1986) hereinafter in this paragraph referred to as the said Act shall, as from the date hold such offices as if appointed to that office under this Constitution and shall as soon as practicable after that date, make and subscribe before the appropriate person an oath or affirmation in the form set out in the Third Schedule.

(5) All appointments made by the Chief Martial Law Administrator during the said period to any office or post which is continuing after the date of commencement of the said Act, shall as from that date be deemed to be appointments made by the President.

(6) All Ordinances and other laws in force immediately before the date of commencement of the said Act shall subject to the Proclamation revoking the said Proclamation and withdrawing the Martial Law, continue in force until altered, amended or repealed by competent authority.

(7) Upon the revocation of the said Proclamation and withdrawal of Martial Law this

Constitution shall stand fully revived and restored and shall, subject to the provisions of this paragraph have effect and operate as if it had never been suspended.

8) The revocation of the said Proclamation and withdrawal of Martial Law shall not revive or restore any right or privilege which was not existing at the time of such evocation and withdrawal.

9) The General Clauses Act 1897 shall apply to the said Pro-

clamation and all other Proclamations, Proclamation Orders, Chief Martial Law Administrator's Orders, Martial Law Regulations, Martial Law Orders and Martial Law Instructions made during the said period and also to the revocation of the said Proclamation and other Proclamations and the repeal of the said Proclamation Orders, Chief Martial Law Administrator's Orders, Martial Law Regulations, Martial Law Orders and Martial Law Instructions as it applies to the repeal of an Act of Par-

liament as if the said Proclamation and other Proclamations, Proclamation Orders, Chief Martial Law Administrator's Orders, Martial Law Regulations, Martial Law Orders and Martial Law Instructions and the Proclamation revoking the said Proclamation were all acts of Parliament.

(10) In this paragraph, "law" includes Rules, Regulations, By-laws, Orders, Notifications and other Instruments having the force of law."

Hasina Comments

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The leader of the Opposition, Sheikh Hasina, on Monday termed the passage of the Seventh Constitution Amendment Bill validating all "illegal actions" of the Martial Law regime as another addition of a "black chapter" in the history of the country.

Addressing a Press conference at the Chamber of the Leader of the Opposition at the Sangsad Bhavan, Sheikh Hasina said that the Seventh Amendment Bill would not be accepted by the people. She observed that the Bill was passed by the Members of the ruling party who were not voted by the people but declared elected by "media coup". She however criticised those few Opposition and Independent MPs who voted to pass the Bill and associated themselves with such anti-people Bill. She observed that if they would not have voted the amendment would not have

passed.

The Leader of the Opposition said that the Bill was a violation of the Article 142 of the Constitution. She observed that it was a mockery by the Government to pass an amendment to the Constitution while the Constitution itself remained suspended under a Martial Law promulgation.

Sheikh Hasina said that the passage of the Bill would "encourage and invite the process of capturing power through bullet and validate illegal regime through so-called ballot." She observed that the process started with the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975 was legalised by Fifth Constitution Amendment in 1979 and validated again by the Seventh Constitution Amendment Bill. She reiterated that Awami League fought to bring an end to such process and it would continue the movement

to free the nation from repeated Martial Law regimes.

Meanwhile Dr. Kamal Hossain, member of the Awami League Presidium observed that no part of the Constitution can be amended before lifting of Martial Law and complete restoration of the Constitution. He further added that the Seventh Amendment is meaningless because it has been done under Martial Law and before the Constitution was fully restored.

He was addressing the public meeting organised by the city unit of the party in front of party office on Monday afternoon. Mr. Omar Ali, President of City Unit presided over the meeting. The meeting was addressed by Mrs. Sajeda Chowdhury, General Secretary, Mr. M. A. Mannan, Member of Presidium, Mr. Mohammad Nasim, Office Secretary of the party.

Begum Zia Confined

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 11 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Seven-party alliance leader and BNP chief Begum Khaleda was scheduled to address yesterday's rally at Baitul Mukarram Square but finally she did not turn up.

When contacted she told New Nation over telephone that police had locked the main gate of her residence from outside at 9-30 a.m. and she was kept confined for about five hours till 2-15 p.m.

Begum Zia said that the police had told her that they had the orders from the authorities to lock up the gate when she asked them to open it up and let her go out of her residence. Police requested her to stay at home for her security reasons, she said.

Some time later, police had told her that they would open the gate at 1 p.m. but they did not do that even at 2 p.m., Begum Zia alleged and said finally the gate was opened at about 2-15 p.m. after a police officer who was there received an order to this effect on his walkie talkie.

Begum Zia directly came to Baitul Mukarram square to attend the rally but the rally

was then over. She then went to Azimpur graveyard to see the body of Shahadat Hossain who was killed yesterday. She also went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital to see those who were injured yesterday and visited the Shahadat's house.

Meanwhile, when contacted, the Home Secretary told the New Nation over telephone that he knew nothing about Begum Zia. He said, 'To my knowledge, there was no restriction on her movement yesterday.'

He further said that "legally there was no restrictions on her movement". 'Had there been any such restriction on her I must have known about it. There was no reasons why she should have not come out of her resi-

dence', he added.

Seven-Party alliance leader and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia has said that the people would reject those who had supported the validation of the actions of the present government.

In an instant reaction to the New Nation over telephone late last night, she said 'We do not accept this parliament as the people did not exercise their franchise in the last parliamentary election.'

Begum Zia said the Seven-Party alliance would continue movement to press home its demands for dissolution of the present parliament and holding of a fresh election under a neutral government.

Communist Party Response

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 11 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

Six Parliament members belonging to Bangladesher Communist Party last night, accused a section of Eight-party alliance MPs of collaborating with the Government in passing the

seventh amendment bill in the Jatiya Sangsad.

In a joint statement issued last night the six CPB MPs-Mohammed Farhad, Baruh Roy, Shahnawaz, Dabirul Islam, Ohi-dur Rahman and Md Shahidullah said had those Eight party alliance MPs been true to their electoral pledge then the government could not have got it passed at the Jatiya Sangsad.

The CPB leaders said by this bill the government had also legalised the grabbing of state power illegally.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1238

TEXT OF GOVERNMENT PRESS NOTE ON 10 NOVEMBER RIOTS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Nov 86 pp 1, 8

[Text]

The Government in a Press Note said in Dhaka on Monday that one person was killed and several other injured including some policemen in splinter injury when some people resorted to hurling bombs and cocktails to stop normal movement of vehicular traffic near Kataban crossing in connection with the hartal call, reports BSS.

The Press Note said police on duty displayed extreme tolerance but no amount of persuasion had any effect to dissuade the mob from indulging in such dangerous and unlawful activities. Police then to disperse the unruly mob used some teargas and had to resort to mild lathi charges and secure the arrest of 46 persons from the riotous mob which helped in bringing the situation under control.

The following Press Note was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Some political parties including seven-party and five party Alliances called for country-wide half day hartal from 6

a.m to 12 noon to resist passage of the seventh Amendment by the Jatiyo Sangsad which began its second session on Monday (Nov 10, 1986).

In view of the proposed hartal call adequate police arrangement was made to ensure safety and security of life and property of the citizens in the Dhaka metropolitan area. The organisers of hartal and their supporters however, resorted to various illegal activities including explosion of hand bombs Crackers cocktails and hand grenades to create scare and panic amongst the city dwellers from the small hours of the day.

A section of the students of Dhaka University reinforced by urchins and other rowdy elements formed unlawful assemblies at Kataban crossing Pallasi crossing Chandkharpole Old Railway Hospital crossing and P.G Hospital crossing and started interfering with all vehicular movement including those of the law enforcing agencies. They hurled bombs and cocktails towards the police on duty causing grievous injuries to many and damaging some Government transport. They also damaged public property at Science Laboratory and New Market areas as many as 27

Police personnel including one Inspector five Sergeants and S.I.S sustained injuries and were admitted to the hospital. A number of people mostly on lookers

and passers by also received injuries due to splinters from bombs and other missiles.

In the process near Kataban crossing one Shahadat aged about 14/15 years s/o. one Zahiruddin of Lal Bagh and an employee of a local motor workshop was injured from a bomb explosion to which he later succumbed at Dhaka Medical College, Hospital.

According to preliminary Medical report the death was caused due to splinter injury received just below the chest. An unruly mob entered the DMCH and forcibly took away the dead body without allowing a post-mortem examination which was required to complete the legal formalities.

Police on duty displayed extreme tolerance but no amount of persuasion had any effect to dissuade the mob from indulging in such dangerous and unlawful activities. Police then to disperse the unruly mob used some teargas and had to resort to mild lathi-charges and secure the arrest of 46 persons from the riotous mob which helped in bringing the situation under control.

The Government wishes to reiterate its firm determination to ensure safety and security of all peace-loving and law abiding citizens and urges upon all concerned to refrain from activities detrimental to peace, stability and order in the overall national interest.

CABINET BANS PUBLIC MEETINGS AT BAITUL MUKARRAM SQUARE

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Dec 86 pp 1, 10

[Text]

A meeting of the Council of Ministers on Thursday decided that no public meetings will be allowed at Baitul Mukarram Square. The decision will come into force with immediate effect, reports BSS.

The Council meeting held at Bangabhaban was chaired by President Hussain Muhammad Ershad.

The decision banning holding of public meeting at Baitul Mukarram Square was taken to maintain sanctity of the National Mosque. Moreover, public meetings at the Square cause inconvenience to public and movement of traffic in the busy thoroughfare in city centre.

The meeting observed that public meetings may be held at the place where last export fair was held near Shere-Bangla Nagar.

The meeting approved amendments to the existing Ordinance to create opportunities for efficient running of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) and Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS).

The objectives of the amendments are to substantially increase operational autonomy of these two institutions and also to ensure more efficient management of private and institutional shareholders.

BSRS won't finance

any new project

The BSB will now function as the major industrial financing institution. While the BSRS will concentrate on the consolidation of its existing portfolio and provide finance only for

balancing modernisation, replacement and expansion (MRE) of its existing projects. BSRS will not finance any new project.

The Industrial Advisory Centre of Bangladesh will be merged with the BSRS and the merged BSRS will concentrate on the management of its existing portfolio and development of advisory and consultancy services for public and private sector industries.

The BSRS will also develop management capability for running of industries wherever necessary.

Meanwhile President Ershad said that the people have reposed total confidence in his Government during the last two elections as they were immensely benefited by programmes and policies implemented in various fields during the last four years and a half.

Speaking at the first meeting of the Council of Ministers after the lifting of Martial Law on November 10, the President said "The pledges I have made to the people will be fulfilled and to achieve this objective, we must discharge our responsibilities in our respective fields".

He pointed out that there is no time to waste and said the responsibility of attaining the cherished goal of building the country will have to be shared by all. In this context he said, a new administrative system will now have to be evolved in the public interest by changing the age-old system.

The President said, "Our

march ahead will continue till we achieve our objective of establishing an exploitation-free and happy society and hence next five years of the present Government the period for which the people have given it the mandate is a very important phase". "We must avail the opportunity provided to us all by Almighty Allah to serve the people and contribute for their well being."

The meeting of the Council was attended by Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and Secretaries and Additional Secretaries in charge of all Ministries.

President Ershad said all the Ministries will have to take full responsibility in their respective fields and emphasised for better inter-Ministrial coordination for speedy implementation of the programmes and policies of the Government. He also asked the Ministries to revitalise and reorganise their respective organisations to achieve better results.

The President said discipline is the main pre-requisite for unhindered development of a country. He said we cannot allow a handful of indisciplined elements to create obstacles in the way of our progress and asked the authorities concerned to handle these elements with iron hand.

BRIEFS

NEW CHIEF JUSTICE--Chief Justice Dr. F.K.M.A. Munim was sworn-in yesterday under the revived constitution of the country as the Chief Justice of Bangladesh, reports BSS. President Hussain Muhammad Ershad administered the oath of office to the Chief Justice at a simple ceremony at Bangabhaban. Law Minister Justice Nurul Islam was present. [Text][Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 13 Nov 86 p 8]/12828

ENVOY TO UGANDA--The Government has decided to concurrently accredit Mr. Abdul Momen Chowdhury, at present High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Kenya, as High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Uganda, reports BSS. [Text][Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 11 Nov 86 p 3]/12828

AMBASSADORS TO PERU, SYRIA--Government has decided to concurrently accredit Mr Justice B A Siddiky at present Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York, as the country's Ambassador to Peru, says an official source. KHORSHED ALAM Meanwhile the Government has decided to concurrently accredit Mr Khorshed Alam, at present Bangladesh Ambassador to Turkey, as Ambassador of the country to the Syrian Arab Republic. [Text][Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Nov 86 p 3]/12828

ENVOY TO SEYCHELLES--The government has decided to concurrently accredit Mr. Abdul Momen Choudhury at present the Bangladesh High Commissioner to Kenya as the country's High Commissioner to the Republic of Seychelles, a foreign office announcement said on Tuesday, reports BSS. [Text][Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 6 Nov 86 p 3]/12828

AMBASSADOR TO GDR--The Government has decided to appoint Mr. A.K.H. Morshed, at present Additional foreign Secretary, as the country's Ambassador to the German Democratic Republic (GDR), a Foreign Office announcement said on Monday, reports BSS. [Text][Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Nov 86 p 3]/12828

NEW YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR--Mr. Feher Kalman has been appointed as the new ambassador of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to Bangladesh, the foreign office announced on Monday reports BSS. Born in 1940, Mr. Kalman started his career as a journalist. He also served as the Secretary of the Commission for National Equality and Secretary of the Commission for Foreign Policy and International Cooperation of the Province committee of the Socialist Alliance of the working people of Vojvodina.[Text][Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 28 Oct 86 p 3]/12828

BANGLADESH-UAE INVESTMENT FIRM--Bangladesh and the UAE, signed in Abu Dhabi on Saturday an agreement establishing a Bangladesh-UAE joint Investment Company, an official Press release said in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS. Total share capital of the company is 12.5 million US Dollars of which 40 per cent will be paid up capital in the beginning. UAE share in the company is 60 per cent and the share of Bangladesh is 40 per cent. Headquarters of the company will be located in Bangladesh. This is the second such joint company established in Bangladesh. The first one being between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. The agreement was signed at the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development (ADFAED) Headquarters at Abu Dhabi. Mr. Nasser Al-Nowais, Director General Abu Dhabi Fund and Mr Mujibur Rabman, Joint Secretary ERD Government of Bangladesh signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments. After signing the agreement the DG (ADFAED) stated that this was a major step in the direction of strengthening brotherly relationship between the two countries. It will also pave the way for further investment of UAE. Private Sector in the economic development of Bangladesh through mutually beneficial joint venture projects. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Nov 86 p 8]/12828

NEW ALGERIAN ENVOY--The Algerian Ambassador designate to Bangladesh Mr Mohamed Chadly presented his credentials to President Hussain Muhammad Ershad at Bangabhaban on Thursday morning reports BSS. Presenting his letter of credence the Algerian Ambassador expressed the hope that fraternal relations between the two Muslim countries would be further strengthened in the days ahead. [Text][Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 Dec 86 p 8]/12828

CSO: 4600/1241

BHUTAN

BRIEFS

PRC LEADERS GREET KING--China's President Li Xiannian and Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang in a joint message extended warm greetings to Bhutana's King Jigme Singye Wangchuk on Bhutan's national day. The greeting message says that friendly contacts between China and Bhutan have continued to grow in recent years, contributing to promotion of mutual understanding and friendship. The message expresses the confidence that through mutual efforts of China and Bhutan the traditional friendship and good-neighborly relations between the two countries will continue to develop constantly on the basis of five principles of peaceful coexistence. [Text] [Beijing in Hindi to India 1500 GMT 16 Dec 86 BK] /6662

CSO: 4600/79

GANDHI REPORTS TO RAJYA SABHA ON SAARC MEETING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Wednesday told the Rajya Sabha that the second summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) held at Bangalore though had failed to define terrorism, it had made considerable progress with respect to the problem of drug trafficking afflicting the member-states.

Defining terrorism was one of the major problems the SAARC countries faced at its recently concluded conference, Mr Gandhi said. He hoped, however, that the SAARC would ultimately be able to find a definition which would help its members in meeting this phenomenon.

Mr Gandhi who was replying to the members' clarifications in the Rajya Sabha on his statements on SAARC made earlier in both the Houses of Parliament said that the question of defining terrorism was still open and it would soon be worked out.

Mr Gandhi who also happens to be the new chairman of the SAARC told Mr Jaswant Singh (BJP) that he agreed fully with the member that the Bangalore declaration read more like a declaration of intent since at this stage it could not be more than an intent.

However, this was not to suggest that the summit was without a purposeful action and in the course of one year, that is by the time the SAARC

meets at Kathmandu, the declaration might be given a concrete shape, he hoped.

The SAARC had gone beyond what it had intended at its first summit at Dhaka.

The Prime Minister told in a reply to Prof Lakshmana (TD) that the SAARC had not reached a stage where it could think of relaxing the provision of visa among the member states. He added that the Bangalore summit had however decided two important new areas of cooperation under which it was decided to set up a meteorological institute in India and an agricultural information centre in Bangladesh.

Mr Gandhi also denied the observations made by members, V Gopalswamy (DMK) and Aladi Aruna (AIADMK) that India could not reply to Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene who while having virtually declared a war on Tamils had spoken "hypocritically" of non-violence, Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi. The members alleged that the Sri Lanka Government was carrying on a genocide on the Tamils.

Mr Aruna referred to the declaration of Mr Jayewardene who just before the summit had warned the Tamils that his Government was providing them last chance for solution of the ethnic problems and on failure would declare war on them.

Mr Gandhi referred to his speech in

Bangalore which condemned violence and read, "any violence which engendered hatred is not compatible with the precept of Buddha and Gandhi."

Earlier, making a statement in Parliament on SAARC, Mr Gandhi said that the Bangalore summit had proved "useful" for an exchange of views with the leaders of the member countries on the issues of bilateral, regional and international issues even though bilateral issues were out of the purview of the summit.

He said during his chairmanship, the SAARC would endeavour to consolidate the gains of the first crucial year of its existence. "The basic thrust of our effort is to promote people-to-people contacts at all levels for reaching an understanding among the countries which are members of the SAARC."

Inaugurated on the joint eve of the Kartic Purnima and the birth anniversaries of Guru Nanak Dev and prophet Mohammad, the SAARC would help in "reaffirming our faith in promoting common good of our people through cooperative solutions to shared problems".

Mr Gandhi said the Government would make a separate statement later this week on the bilateral meetings he had had with the President of Bangladesh, the Kings of Bhutan and Nepal and the Presidents of the Maldives and Sri Lanka.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1227

AGENCY REPORTS FINAL ESTIMATE ON FOODGRAIN PRODUCTION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Nov 86 p 5

[Text]

The foodgrain production in 1985-86 has been finally estimated at 150.47 million tonnes, comprising 85.99 million tonnes in Kharif and 64.48 million tonnes in rabi, reports UNI.

This is only 1.90 million tonnes lower than the record production of 152.37 million tonnes achieved in 1983-84 and considerably higher than the figures given in the provisional estimates.

The final estimates which are now available show that both rice and wheat achieved a record production in 1985-86, with rice particularly showing a marked increase. Rice production during the year is estimated at 64.15 million tonnes, of which the kharif rice was 59.77 million tonnes and rabi rice 4.38 million tonnes. The previous record rice output was 60.10 million tonnes, achieved in 1983-84.

The wheat output last year was 48.89 million tonnes, or 1.4 million tonnes higher than the previous record.

The coarse cereals, however, showed a fall, mainly because of a widespread drought during the kharif season. The coarse cereal output is estimated at 21.77 million tonnes, about seven million tonnes less than what was achieved in 1983-84.

The pulses production has been estimated at 12.97 million tonnes, and oilseeds at 11.15 million tonnes.

Following is the breakup of the oilseeds production: groundnut 5.55 million tonnes, rapeseed and mustard 2.64 million tonnes, soyabean 980,000 tonnes, castor seed 300,000, sesamum 500,000 tonnes, linseed 370,000 tonnes, niger seed 190,000 tonnes, safflower 180,000 tonnes.

/9274

CSO: 4600/1223

IRAN

SOVIETS TO COOPERATE IN SURVEY OF CASPIAN SEA RESERVES

Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Aug 86 p 2

[Text] Iran will begin drilling operations for the oil and gas reserves in the Caspian Sea. In this regard, the Soviet Union will cooperate with Iran on technical issues.

In his visit to Moscow last week, Mr Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the Iranian minister of petroleum, negotiated in this regard with Soviet authorities. The announcement was later made that Iran will most likely receive Soviet drilling and other necessary equipment, based on an agreement.

The IRNA petroleum reporter has prepared a report on the probable cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union in the Caspian Sea, the level of economic output of this project, and the social and economic effects of the petroleum activities in the Caspian Sea. The details of the report are as follows.

For the first time, at the end of the meeting of the Cabinet in the second week of Bahman [21 January-19 February] of last year, the announcement was made that Iran intends to exploit the existing resources of the Caspian Sea. In that meeting, the Cabinet requested that the officials of the Ministry of Petroleum pursue more seriously the activities involving the extraction of oil and gas in the Caspian Sea. A few days later, in the meeting of the Soviet deputy foreign minister, who was visiting Tehran, with the minister of petroleum, Iran's decision in this regard was discussed.

The Caspian Sea is located between the northern border of Iran and the Soviet Union. According to information available, the Soviet Union is at the present extracting about 200,000 barrels of oil and a significant amount of natural gas daily, whereas Iran has only so far discovered the existence of rich oil and natural gas reserves through seismological and exploratory operations. The oil and natural gas extraction operations of the Soviet Union in this region date from 15 to 20 years ago.

The Iranian officials, who are determined to exploit the resources of the Caspian sea, noted several points. Besides the economic savings which will be gained by the country in this connection, the oil and natural gas obtained from the Caspian Sea will be used to provide for the needs of the northern areas of the country.

Concerned experts say that the smallest well drilled in this area will provide 200 billion rials in revenues annually. Considering the vastness of the existing fields in the area, the total revenues mentioned will exceed this amount with the drilling of more wells.

However, since the start of the extraction of the oil and natural gas resources of the Caspian Sea will require numerous industrial units, such activities in the region will affect the social life and the fishing operations in the Caspian Sea.

The decision has been made to install units on the coast of the Caspian Sea for ship building, the manufacture of some spare parts, and drilling equipment assembly, which will create a large number of jobs.

Before the minister of petroleum's visit to Moscow, the only existing problem in this area was the transportation of exploratory and drilling equipment to the Caspian Sea. In this regard, Iran was trying to use the Soviet waterways to this sea. Also, to purchase the necessary equipment and engage in the necessary activities in the area, Iran put this project up for bids, and 13 countries declared their interest in cooperating.

The final negotiations between Iran and the Soviet Union in this connection resulted in the signing of a an agreement in principle between the parties, on the basis of which the Soviet party expressed its willingness to cooperate in the drilling operations for the discovery of oil and natural gas resources in the southern part of the Caspian Sea.

The above-mentioned note states that Iranian experts will visit the Soviet Union this September to view similar petroleum units. During the same month, experts from both countries will meet to prepare the operational plans in accordance with the needs of Iran.

In regards to the form of cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union, no final decision has been made. However, three methods--sale, leasing and contracting--are to be studied and finalized.

In the meeting with Mr Aqazadeh, the Soviet officials also declared their willingness, in the area of increased cooperation, to engage in geological and oil extraction tasks involving the oil reserves of the southern part of the Caspian Sea. The decision was made that Iran would study this proposal.

Besides all the positive economic aspects of the above-mentioned project, observers believe that the start of oil operations in the Caspian Sea will open a new chapter in the economic and political relations of Iran and the Soviet Union.

Considering all the issues that were mentioned, if no particular problem appears in this connection, in the near future, we can expect the work on the installation of drilling rigs in the southern part of the Caspian Sea to begin, and oil and natural gas will later reach ground level.

MINISTER OF ISLAMIC GUIDANCE DETAILS PROPAGANDA EFFORTS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Sep 86 p 2

[Interview with Minister of Islamic Guidance Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Khatami by the media; date and place not specified]

[Text] Political service. The minister of Islamic guidance explained the propaganda and artistic activities of this ministry in the course of war week in a press, radio and television interview.

In this interview, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Mohammad Khatami pointed out the importance of the recording and preservation of historical and national heroism in various societies and emphasized Islamic history, which is full of heroism, and the effects of such heroism in keeping alive the Islamic and cultural values of our country.

In a part of his speech concerning the role and mission of artists in connection with such heroism, the minister of Islamic guidance said: In Islam, it is heroism that creates art and the artist, and the greatest mission of the artist is to be able to understand such heroism and transmit it to future generations precisely and completely.

Referring to the heroic creations of the Islamic combatants and the brave resistance of the Iranian Muslims in the course of the imposed war as well as the coinciding of war week this year with the days of Moharram, he said: The greatness of our war and revolution stems from the fact that these movements are the continuation of the great 'Ashura uprising.

Explaining the responsibilities and duties of the Ministry of Guidance in connection with the issue of war, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami said: The greatest duty of this ministry is to create the grounds for contact between the sacred defense and the artists and supporters of culture in this society.

We try to nurture superior artists who are on the same level with the combatants.

He said: God willing, we will end this war, but the heroism must not end.

The spirit of bravery and self-sacrifice of our combatants must be transmitted to future generations, so that they will be aware of the greatness of the task of the brave Iranian nation today.

Continuing his speech, the minister of Islamic guidance referred to the activities of this ministry from the start of the imposed war in various areas and in this connection, explained the establishment of the deputy war office in the Ministry of Guidance and the establishment of two cultural headquarters in the southern and western fronts of the country, the goal of which, according to him, is to encourage, support and guide the artists to reflect the fronts and to provide their needs for creating artistic works, as well as ensuring that they properly understand and record the lofty culture of the front in various areas in keeping with the cultural steps taken by the Ministry of Guidance regarding the war.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami also mentioned some of the activities of the Ministry of Guidance in connection with the issue of the war and war week, including the dispatch of dozens of film-showing groups, film makers and photographers to the war fronts, the printing of thousands of photographs of the various scenes of the war and sending them to various institutions, preparations for teaching the combatants headquartered on the front in the fields of film making and photography, the production of 360 minutes of 16-mm documentary films about the war, the production of a number of motion pictures about the war fronts, the publication of 20 books about the war, and the publication of 4 books entitled "The Chosen," "The Necessity of Continuing the Sacred Defense," "In the Stronghold of Poetry on the War Front" and "An Analysis of the Situation of the Iraqi Captives" (in Arabic).

In this connection, he pointed out that this year on the occasion of war week, the third nationwide cultural and literary contest in such fields as story writing, memoir writing, and poetry will be held.

He added: In the provincial cities, too, various ceremonies will be held for war week by the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, including an exhibition of photographs and slides, the distribution of films, and the publication of 30 series of books with 70 titles.

Also, concerning the theater exhibition, the minister of Islamic guidance said: In this area, various steps have been taken, including "In Honor of the Stronghold Theater," which will be shown from 30 Shahrivar to 6 Mehr [21-28 September] and will include 10 plays by artists at the combative strongholds (especially in the west).

In conclusion, the minister of Islamic Guidance referred to the third collection of art and literature in the service of the war. Explaining the program of this collection, which will be held in the city theater from 31 Shahrivar to 6 Mehr [22-28 September] simultaneously with war week, he said

that during the program, an audio-visual account of five important and decisive operations of the combatants will be shown and some of the activities of the representative offices of this ministry and the cultural houses of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad in connection with the war week will be explained.

10,000

CSO: 4640/31

IRAN

BANKS ALLOWED TO CONFISCATE POSSESSIONS OF INDEBTED COMPANIES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Sep 86 p 2

[Interview with Revolution Prosecutor for Economic Affairs Hojjat ol-Eslam Ramazani by mass media on 17 Sep 86; place not specified]

[Text] Economic service. Banks to which companies subject to Article 49 of the Constitution have debts were granted permission from today to confiscate the possessions of those companies.

According to KEYHAN's economic correspondent, this morning, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ramazani, the revolution prosecutor for economic affairs, expressed his views concerning the debts to banks by companies subject to Article 49 of the Constitution and the issues related to hoarding in an interview with the mass media.

He first said: Before the revolution, about 1,250 companies received substantial loans from the banks. After the revolution, the owners of the companies became fugitives. Some of them registered complaints with the court at The Hague and were able to obtain some of the deposits belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In this connection, in the course of meetings with the managers the country's banks, we issued a circular letter addressed to the central office of registry and properties that all properties used as collateral to the banks should be confiscated, especially in the case of owners whose possessions were confiscated or prohibited from transactions by this prosecutor's office in the interest of the banks to which they are indebted.

He added: Of course, the creditor banks are obligated to take possession of only the amount of property equivalent to the amount of their loan and to declare the surplus to the Prosecutor's Office.

He added: From the 26 companies whose cases have been investigated thus far, about 8.5 billion rials in debts to banks have been recovered.

Referring to the ratification of the hoarding and price-hiking bill, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ramazani said: We expected that in the course of the ratification of this bill, the Prosecutor's Office and the Shar' magistrates would also be

involved. In any case, we have decided to implement the law. But the law alone cannot solve the problem. We also need the help and cooperation of the people.

He added: A series of issues extend beyond our power, such as the issue of pricing. If the government has not priced an item, we cannot deal with price hiking in regards to that item.

In conclusion, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ramazani asked the people to cooperate with officials in the implementation of the ruling to identify hoarding and hoarders.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ramazani also said: A large number of the 13 groups that we announced earlier have thus far reported to the Prosecutor's Office, but some have not, and they have two more months in which to do so. If they do not report, their name will be received by the Prosecutor's Office through the ministries and they will be prosecuted.

10,000

CSO: 4640/31

WORK PERMIT PARTICULARS ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 11 Sep 86 p 17

[Interview by KEYHAN; interviewee, date and place not specified]

[Text] Economic service. Details and procedures for the preparation and implementation of the plan for issuing work permits to workers, which is the first plan in the area of statistics and studies of manpower by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, were explained in an interview with KEYHAN.

The text of the interview, which concerns the existence of statistics and data on manpower employed in units and factories and the country's need for such information follows.

KEYHAN: What is the aim and motivation of the Ministry of Labor in issuing "work permits"?

[Answer] It was the need to form a data bank on the characteristics of employed persons, to record the current changes and keep this information up to date for use in making plans concerning needed manpower, and through which we could obtain precise data concerning work skills and specialization.

On the basis of the information obtained from the implementation of this plan, through the data bank, we will be regularly informed about the situation of the employed manpower, according to profession, education, age, sex, field of work, level of skill, and other characteristics of manpower, and to make use of these statistics in our planning.

The implementation of this plan can help us avoid heavy expenditures for the gathering of incomplete information and statistics on workshops and workers.

Another benefit of the above plan is its dynamism. It will regularly inform the authorities of the situation with regard to the employed persons in the country, dynamically reflect all the changes occurring in regards to them, and reveal their characteristics at any given moment.

This information will enable us in our planning for manpower to determine the skill shortages and the kind of professions needed according to the developmental plans for every region and to properly and appropriately distribute the manpower throughout the various regions.

The system of gathering information, recording and reporting the changes has been organized to enable the dynamic changes to be controlled with the use of the workshop and workers' identifying "codes," so that the information concerning the quantitative and qualitative changes can be available at one-month intervals.

Technically, this plan is designed to prevent problems such as the interference of the titles of various job classes, and by employing a five-digit "code," to respond to the differences and similarities of job classifications in a form that will not create problems regarding the replacement and transportation of the work force.

KEYHAN: At what state of implementation is this plan at the present time?

[Answer] The preparations for the implementation of the plan have, of course, been made and the necessary number of permits has been prepared. We have sent our officials to the provinces to teach the implementation of the plan. At the present time, the field operations for the implementation of the plan have begun, with the cooperation of the directors general of the provinces and the directors of departments as well as the assistance of the workshop managers and workers, and it is successfully being implemented in its early stages.

Privileges of those who have work permits [as published]

KEYHAN: Is the issuance of work permits connected with the projects to support workers?

[Answer] On the basis of the projections made, such privileges as special services, including unemployment pay, services, and welfare facilities, will be made available to those who hold work permits.

KEYHAN: Are work permits mandatory for workers?

[Answer] All employees of the units and factories must have work permits. Such areas as investigating workers' disputes and employment in production units as well as receiving unemployment pay should they be unemployed are contingent upon having work permits.

KEYHAN: Will the implementation of the plan for the issuance of work permits be carried out only in a special division?

[Answer] This plan will be carried out in various phases. The first phase includes production and industrial workshops and certainly in the next phases, all the economic sectors of the country will be included.

KEYHAN: How many work permits will be issued in the first phase of the implementation of the above plan?

[Answer] In the first phase, we have anticipated the issuance of work permits for nearly one million people.

In this phase, we will issue work permits for workers of working age who are employed in workshops of 10 or more workers.

Hence, we have projected that the first phase will be implemented by the end of Aban 1365 [November 1986] throughout the country, and 800,000 work permits will be issued, and then we will take steps to issue work permits for other employees.

Quantitative and Qualitative Changes

A. Address of the workshop

Province

District

City

Street Square

Alley No Telephone

B. Workshop specifications

Name of workshop

Main activity of workshop

Name of director of workshop

Kind of ownership: Private Public

Code of workshop

C. Worker specifications

1. Name and surname

2. Identification code of worker's workshop

3. Marital status: Married . . . Single . . .

Number of dependents: persons

4. Education: Illiterate Literate
Highest degree
5. Present Occupation
6. Occupational situation: Employer
Independent worker Wage earner
Foreign worker
7. Degree of skill in present occupation: Minimal
Skilled. . . Technician. . . Highly specialized. . .
8. Date you started working in this workshop: Month . . . Year . . .
9. Total monthly wages and benefits at present: rials
10. Have you been specially trained for your present occupation?
Yes . . . No . . . Kind and period of training

D. Termination of relationship

11. Reason for leaving: Dismissal . . . Quit work
Retired . . . Other, specify
12. Date of leaving occupation:
Date of issuance Name and surname of applicant

Signature:

Special Office of the General Department of Statistics and Manpower Studies

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CSO: 4640/30

COMMENTARY ARGUES AGAINST ACQUIRING AWACS

Karachi DAWN in English 22 Nov 86 p 7

[Article by M. B. Naqvi]

[Text]

MR. RICHARD ARMITAGE, US Assistant Secretary of Defence and International Security Affairs, has disclosed that for two to three years the AWACs (airborne warning and control system) planes, apparently being provided by the US to this country, would be operated by American crew. He is said to have declined to comment on the location of these planes because Pakistan objects to US bases on its soil; he confined himself somewhat ambiguously to emphasising that it was for Pakistan to decide when it wants these aircraft. That is it. The offer, being seeming contingent on basing facilities to the US, should be declined with thanks.

There continue to be much disquiet in the country over the AWACS affair. Many political leaders, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani and Mr. S.M. Zafar among others, have demanded of the government disclosure of all the information on the subject. Many relevant facts are not before the public. It is good that the Pakistan President himself has dispelled the impression created by Mr. Armitage when he said that the AWACS would be

operated by American crew. The Pakistan President has now said that these planes would be piloted by Pakistanis. That is good as far as it goes. But an element of uncertainty remains.

Piloting of a Boeing is no great deal. About hundred out of the over 160 UN members can provide Boeing pilots. The point about the American crew concerns not so much the piloting as the operation of the actual surveillance equipment. On the latter point the President's words are not too clear: 'there was no harm in acquiring the services of foreign experts for providing specialised training to Pakistani personnel for operating such a modern system.' That is where controversy would be. Moreover, there is the presumption that the data collected by AWACS would require to be processed by Americans with the help of American computers. The intelligence thus collected would be available first to the Americans. That is where the Russians and Afghans, if not others, would cry foul play and our non-alignment would come under further suspicion.

Expensive

Originally the Foreign Office had said two things: vastly-increased intrusions of the Pakistani airspace had made it necessary for Pakistan to acquire an early-warning facility. Secondly, buying an American AWACS aircraft was out of the question because it is frightfully

expensive. Thus, it was denied that Pakistan was contemplating its purchase. There were other suggestions lately, emanating from outside, that perhaps EC2 or EC3 — similar to AWACS but with a smaller-radius capacity — might be acquired by Pakistan. By the time American Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger came calling on Islamabad authorities, one thing was clear: the US was definitely in a mood to give Pakistan an aerial-early-warning facility.

During Mr. Weinberger's visit, it looked to outsiders as if Pakistan is not overly keen either to buy an AWACS facility (because of its price tag) or to permit stationing of American AWACS (because that would be tantamount to giving bases to the US). Pakistan officials firmly denied readiness to grant bases to the US and affirmed their adherence to non-alignment. For his part, Mr. Weinberger in his Islamabad Press conference, showed awareness of Pakistan's need for an early-warning facility and his own willingness, and some detected in it a keenness, to provide it. But Pakistan Foreign Office virtually closed the issue by later repeating the familiar position.

But that was not be the end of the issue. In sharp contrast to what Pakistan officials were telling the country, American media were saying something quite different. At least the *New York Times* reported that in the Islamabad discussions the Pakistan President suggested aerial monitoring in the Pakistani airspace — to enable Pakistan to get timely warnings of

incoming Afghan (and or Russian) aircraft from the west — by American-manned AWACS.

Possibly, that was suggested as a way out because the need for it was felt but Pakistan could neither afford to buy them nor allow the stationing of American (manned) AWACS on Pakistani soil. But if not locally based, how would the American-manned aircraft do the job? In theory, it is possible. But only in theory. In practice, it would need a base. However, this suggestion has not been confirmed or denied and is acting as a cat would among pigeons.

Complex equipment

A few things are abundantly clear. Americans do not appear to have sold AWACS to anyone unconditionally. In all cases, it appears, the US-developed AWACS are being operated by American crew, no matter who theoretically owns them. Secondly, it carries tremendously complex equipment on board. Pakistanis might be able to fly Boeing jets, their capacity to operate the latest electronic gadgetry loaded on them is sure to be negligible. Thirdly, this versatile facility does many things: (i) It monitors an area within a 500 miles radius, picking out everything significant moving or happening by recording all radio or electronic signals; and (ii) it can provide command and control functions for aerial-war fighting.

The question has to be asked as to what is the nature of our need. Insofar as an outsider can see, all that seems to be worrying Pakistani authorities is the carelessness about, or contempt of, our borders by Afghan air force; they seem to be violating our airspace more or less non-challantly. If the PAF could have an early enough warning, it could mount defensive action in time to punish the errant intruder(s). Let us look at it a little more closely. But before proceeding further, a little of what we do not want, should also be seen.

What we can not, and should not, contemplate is the need for control and command for aerial war with Afghanistan and or the Russians. In Pakistan's situation, only defensive needs deserve to be attended to; there can be no thought of hostilities. It is a little difficult to see what early warning can the Pakistanis possibly have. Afghan (and Russian) aircrafts must be taking off from Kabul, Khandhar and Jalalabad any number of times every day and they would be heading east in a lot of cases. Would they all be coming into Pakistan airspace? Not necessarily. In most cases they would either have something to do inside that country or come to the border (with Pakistan) for patrolling it on *their* side.

We may conceivably need to monitor all those sorties all the time they last — just to make sure that they do not stray into this side of the Durand Line. Now, in the relatively fewer cases where the Afghan aircrafts do violate our airspace (in addition to whatever else they might have been doing) the actual warning time (of the act of violation) would still be what it is today and no amount of sophisticated equipment would change that — unless, of course, we are to activate all our defences as soon as something takes off anywhere in Afghanistan! That would be absurd.

What Pakistan seems to need more is a radar cover for the actual border areas for both airspace and on land — of a simple kind of good radar on hill tops or other elevations to be sure of the border violations. That is all. It is quite useless to monitor what is happening at Kabul and Herat airports. What shall we do with that information if it were to come by?

Insofar as the AWACS or even their somewhat lower-performance EC2 and EC3 (Hawk Eyes) are concerned, possessing them on *any* bases carries grave implications. First, all these facilities are primarily offensively-oriented instruments — to monitor an adversary's total activities and to enable their

own fighters and bombers to avoid the enemy and to find the right target in actual combat. Given the range of these aircraft, five neighbours of Pakistan will sit up and watch with some suspicion: Apart from Afghanistan and Soviet Union who will not be surprised, China and Iran will be quite uneasy. Much more so, if they happen to be manned by Americans. And what will the Indians make of this kind of facility? When they could not swallow 40 F16s, would they not be expected to counter these essentially offensive instruments of war?

Besides, if we permit US-manned aircraft on Pakistan soil — thankfully ruled out by Islamabad earlier — or airspace, it will still be giving the US base(s), no matter what is said in the sale deed or other agreements. If Pakistan buys them and operates them — a rather unlikely eventuality — such a facility will be highly uneconomical and inappropriate because over 95 per cent of its capacity will be of no use to us.

Hostile act

As for allowing US-owned and American-manned surveillance aircraft to do the monitoring of possible Afghan, Russian, Iranian, Chinese and India territories from our airspace, it would be a hostile act against the concerned people, to begin with. We shall be giving a base facility without acknowledging it, subordinating our sovereignty to others' needs withal. (What the Americans will monitor will be basically for their own purposes). At any rate, by a little daring use of AWACS over (nominally) Pakistani airspace, the US may possibly go on monitoring a lot of space-related activity in Soviet Union and China, not to mention other fears. Unless we definitely need AWACS because we expect to fight an air war, there is absolutely no case for either an AWACS or any version of Hawk Eye. We would be thereby buying our neighbours' suspicions and hostility for no good reason of our own.

/9274

CSO: 4600/74

NAP LEADER WALI KHAN CHARGES EXTERNAL, INTERNAL THREATS

Sees U.S. Interference

Karachi Jang in Urdu 14 Oct 86 p 5

[JANG panel report on interview with Khan Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the Awami National Party]

[Text] Charsadda (JANG panel report)--The leader of the National Awami Party, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, has said that Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi's proposal to establish a national government is a deceit aimed at further postponing the holding of elections on a party basis in accordance with the 1973 constitution. It is a strategy that those forces intend to use who do not at all wish, in view of the presence of American interests, to hold elections in the country, due to the failure of Mr Junejo's government and the unpopularity of the direct involvement of the military rulers. As long as the American interests exist in the country, even if a thousand campaigns are launched, the outcome will be only that one military ruler will be replaced by another. In an interview given to JANG's Zia Shahid and Iftikhar Ali at his ancestral village, Wali Bagh, Char sada, Wali Khan said that at the very first meeting of the leaders of the MRD, he had objected to the name itself. He said he had pointed out that they all wished to initiate a movement for the restoration of democracy as if democracy had once existed in this country and that it was designed to be restored today again, whereas the truth was that for the last 40 years nothing resembling this name ever existed here. Wali Khan remarked: It is being said today that Frontier Province is Pakistan's front line, but I wish to say that all the provinces of Pakistan serve as frontiers. He went on: In such circumstances, if a so-called national government were formed by selecting one representative from each party or from some parties, and if Mr Jatoi's desire to join the government were also fulfilled, even so, such a national government would never hold elections. Instead, by constantly making one excuse or another, it would continue to postpone the date of elections. He said that we would not invite in any foreigners, but foreign powers themselves would make a case for intervention after perceiving our situation. He said that in the 1985 constitution, all power is vested in the president himself. For us, such circumstances are even worse than the one unit framework.

He said that the allegation that his party boycotted the elections was incorrect. Instead, conditions were created whereby the members could not go to the elections, so that at that time the members of the Muslim League and the Jammat-i-Islami could be sent to the assemblies. Responding to numerous questions concerning regional politics, Wali Khan said: I wish to get involved in the politics

of the whole of Pakistan. The truth is that I have never received as many garlands in Frontier Province and Baluchistan as have been placed around my neck in Punjab. However, I am not permitted to go to Punjab. He added: By the time I visit two-four cities of Punjab, I am expelled from that province. I was treated the same way by Mr Bhutto during the previous administration. After the Liaquat Bagh firing, Hanif Ramay himself told me that when he met with Mr Bhutto with regard to the destruction of 18 buses, Mr Bhutto angrily replied that, under no circumstances could he stand seeing Wali Khan on this side of Attock. Wali Khan said that Mr Bhutto, too, was the prisoner of those very forces that even today hold power and authority. He said: The allegation that we did not participate in the movement on 14 August is incorrect, because the MRD had initially proposed that the campaign be launched on 20 September. With regard to the decision to suddenly initiate a movement on 14 August, the leaders of the MRD themselves have admitted that the decision was wrong and that they got caught in the administration's trap. He said that to analyze that decision today is merely to conduct a post mortem on a dead body. In any case, it is a fact that the nation was not prepared, and that all those decisions were made hastily. He said: We considered the foundation of Pakistan as a division of Muslims and not a division of India. It was not only us, but also the Hurs, the Khaksars (humble) and the Jamaat-e Islami that opposed the establishment of Pakistan. However, we are not being granted forgiveness. He said: We have never said that Pakistan would not flourish. But we have definitely said that American brand Mansura Islam would not prosper, and that we would oppose entangling ourselves for no reason with the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, merely for the sake of the American interests. He said: A four-star American general is present in Peshawar today. We should be given an explanation as to what this general and his colleagues are doing in Peshawar. He said: We would not allow our region and our country to be made a testing ground for American and Soviet weapons.

Responding to a question regarding poppy cultivation, Wali Khan said that this was the sole means of livelihood for the people of regions deprived of water. Imposing restrictions on poppy cultivation is similar to imposing restrictions on the planting of grapes and sugar cane, because both these crops could be used for making liquor. Wali Khan said: If you wish to put an end to something, you should stop us from making heroin, that is, brewing powder from the poppy pod. But this will not stop, because the relatives of generals and governors are engaged in this work. He said that most people on the published list of heroin smugglers are from Punjab and Sind, whereas there is not a single person from Frontier Province. And the machinery to produce heroin has now been moved to Gujranwala and the factories to Punjab.

Replying to a question regarding the new design of Kala Bagh, Wali Khan said: No matter whether the design is new or old, we will continue to oppose it.

Alleges U.S. Not for Democracy in Country

Karachi DAWN in English 21 Nov 86 p 1

[Text]

Khan Abdul Wali Khan, President of the Awami National Party, has charged that Pakistan has become a part of the US global strategy and restoration of democracy in Pakistan is against the fundamental interests of the United States.

During an interview with BBC Urdu Service, he showed two US documents to the interviewer claiming that there would be no democracy in Pakistan and there would be martial law in the country one after another.

He claimed that the United States would not permit any popular government in Pakistan which could work against the interests of the United States in the region.

Mr Wali said that he had opposed the words, 'restoration of democracy,' during his first meeting with MRD leaders, on the grounds that there had been no democracy in Pakistan for the past 40 years and, therefore, there was no question for its restoration.

SBPF: On the Sindh-Baluch-Pakhtun Front, Mr Wali Khan said

it had two aspects; one was the quantum of provincial autonomy and the second was the guarantees. He recalled that when the former NAP and other opposition political parties gave blank cheque to former Prime Minister Z.A. Bhutto, the 1973 Constitution was passed and only 24 hours after its enforcement, Emergency was imposed in the country. For this reason, Mr Wali Khan added, the political parties are demanding guarantees.

Confederal setup: On the demand for confederal setup, he said it was the original demand of the Muslim League (the 1940 Resolution of Pakistan) and he had never been a Muslim Leaguer and had no plans to be so in future. However, he said he favoured the federal system in Pakistan.

When the interviewer pointed out that more refugees from Afghanistan are coming to Pakistan and Iran, Mr Wali Khan claimed that Pakistan Government was not allowing the Afghan refugees to go back to their country. He advised the Pakistan Government to permit the refugees to take their decision.

Fears Reimposition of Martial Law

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 86 p 8

[Text]

LAHORE, Dec. 7: The Awami National Party (ANP) Chief, Mr. Abdul Wali Khan, has said that plans were being made for imposition of Martial Law or emergency by pushing the country to the brink of civil war and creating tensions on the borders.

Speaking at a public meeting at the Farid Kot Road here today, Mr. Wali Khan said that the nation was passing through a crisis. No intelligent Pakistani could deny the seriousness and gravity of the internal and external threats faced by the country. Pakistan had been pushed to a critical juncture of its history under a plan.

He said that the situation prevailing on the borders of the country was the outcome of the policies pursued by the Government. He said that the Afghan problem could be solved within 24 hours in case an effort was made for doing so keeping in view the national interest alone. He said that Afghanistan issue had become complicated because of American involvement. Its solution now lay with President Reagan of the United States of America.

The ANP Chief said that war fever had been spread in the country by creating tensions on the borders to divert the attention of the people from internal problems. Baluch, Pashtoon, Muhajirs, Shias and Sunnis had been set against each other by the vested interest.

All these bogies have been raised for driving a wedge between various ethnic groups and sects.

He said that the present Government did not talk about Islam when it came into power. It started talking about Islam after the Afghan revolution and American involvement in the affairs of our neighbouring country. He said that the United States was using Pakistan for safeguarding its interest in this part of the world. Restoration of democracy in Pakistan did not suit American interests.

He said that there was no controversy on Islam in the country. People wanted the solution of their economic problems but the rulers started talking about Islam. He said that he had seen a double-storeyed house of a dog in Karachi and the dog of a rich man wearing a coat in Islamabad but a common man was denied both the facilities.

He said that Islam had been made subservient to politics in Pakistan but politics had not been made subservient to Pakistan and the national interest. The rulers paid only lip service to Islam and used it for perpetuating their power. He said that those against American imperialism had joined hands and formed the Awami National Party to fight against imperialists. Those serving the imperialists should also come in the field openly. He said that

democracy could not be restored in Pakistan and the people could not get basic human rights without getting rid of American influences.

The participants of the meeting adopted resolutions for getting rid of foreign influences by pursuing a policy of self-reliance. They called for lifting of ban on student unions and ending unemployment in the country.

Mian Bashir Zafar, Secretary-General, ANP, Punjab, presented address of welcome to Mr. Wali Khan. He appreciated the services rendered by the family of Mr. Wali Khan for the cause of the people and democracy. Rao Mehroz Akhtar presided.

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C77: 4600/81

COMMENTARY CONSIDERS LESSONS OF U.S.-IRAN 'FIASCO'

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Nov 86 p 8

[Text]

THE welter of reports, denials, confirmations and clarifications to have emerged from Washington, Tehran and Beirut in the last fortnight or so regarding America's secret dealings with Iran has confounded most observers. What is now quite evident, however, is that some diplomatic contacts have taken place between the US and the Iranians, although their level and nature remain disputed. The American Government maintains that in the last eighteen months it has supplied Tehran at least three planeloads of military hardware — two of them through Israel — to obtain the release of three Americans held hostage by the Islamic Jihad in Lebanon. President Reagan has also officially confirmed that his former National Security Council chief, Mr Robert McFarlane, visited Tehran in September in an attempt to establish contact with the moderate elements in the Iranian leadership. Iran's version differs on details. It admits that contacts have been made but they have been indirect; the arms supplied were bought and paid for by the Iranian Government in the open market and not obtained from Israel; Mr McFarlane was not allowed to meet any high-ranking official during his stay in Tehran.

One cannot fail to note the dichotomy in this entire episode, which President

Reagan has now sought to bring to an end by announcing a halt to further shipments of arms to Iran. By its own admission, for a long time the US has followed a policy vis-a-vis post-revolution Iran which betrays a lack of consistency. Since early 1985 the Reagan Administration, which has all along vowed never to negotiate with Iran, branding it a supporter of terrorism, had been secretly dickering with the revolutionary Government in Tehran. While pressing its allies for an arms embargo on Iran and advocating a firm policy of non-payment of ransom for the release of hostages, Washington had, now it confesses, been doing precisely what it was advising others not to do. It has been disclosed that the release of the 39 hostages taken from the hijacked TWA plane in June 1985 was obtained when the US got Iran to intervene with its Lebanese proteges. Of course, American policy has come under severe attack from several quarters. It has been accused of duplicity; of damaging the credibility of its own stand on terrorism vis-a-vis its Western allies; of causing embarrassment to the White House; of splitting the Administration; and of straining relations with its Arab friends and allies. But American apologists have pointed out that the arms-for-hostage deal did not have the narrow objective of securing

the release of some kidnapped men. Larger geostrategic, political and economic interests were also at stake. The American goal is said to have been to restore relations with Iran, the largest and strategically the most important State in the Gulf region. Since 1979, Washington has been isolated from its erstwhile ally and the disadvantages it has suffered on this count have been immense. After the fall of the Shah, US influence in the region has considerably declined. This is underscored by its lack of leverage in the Gulf war. The secret talks are claimed to have been designed to open a channel of communication with Iran which is now widely regarded as a potential major power in the Middle East.

The lesson that can be drawn from the Iran-US tete-a-tete is that adopting a righteous position of a high moral posture on issues of politics can sometimes be utterly naive and at others irredeemably unwise. The

American experience under the Carter and Reagan presidencies has made it clear that morality and diplomacy do not always mix very well. As often happens, when it comes to brass tacks, fundamental national interests and security compulsions, rather than posturing of one kind or another, invariably determine the policies and options of governments. Technically speaking, a government's position on an issue might be based on sound moral principles. But there is nothing like pure black or lily white in diplomacy, the grey areas being more numerous and pressing in their import. Hence, at times, national interests, farsightedness, good sense and pragmatism demand greater flexibility in approach. Our Foreign Office could well learn a few lessons from the American examples of pragmatism in Iran as in many other cases in dealing with issues and problems of critical importance to the country's long-term interest.

/9274

CSO: 4600/71

FORMER MINISTER EXPRESSES FEAR OF 'TOTAL WAR' WITH INDIA

Karachi DAWN in English 22 Nov 86 p 3

[Text]

NOVEMBER 21: Dr Mobashir Hassan, a former federal minister, has suggested to the Government to recall its military missions from different countries of the world to augment its defence.

He told a news conference here on Friday that about two to three divisions of army, navy and air force personnel were serving in several countries. However, when the country was facing internal and external threats, the armed forces of the country could not afford their foreign assignments any longer.

Dr Mobashir Hassan spelled out a number of factors endangering the national security and apprehended that a future war would now be a "total war" in which the masses could adopt an indifferent attitude.

He pleaded that civil defence training to the people be started and arms be distributed among the people to fight out enemy forces. He also called for a wide-ranging

conference of political and religious parties in and out of MRD, senior army and police officers, ruling PML, prominent legislators and editors of leading newspapers to review the prevailing critical situation and suggest ways and means to take the country out of the impasse.

Engineer-cum-economist Dr Hassan expressed concern over the recent threat held by the Indian Prime Minister that Pakistan would be taught a lesson. India's heavy military exercises along the Pakistan border, in which active and even nuclear weapons were being used, the Soviet assertion that relations with Pakistan were at the lowest ebb, the "explosive" situation in the NWFP where "a qualitative change" had taken place in the nature of sabotage activities and "pathetic" scenes in Sind.

According to him, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's threat could be termed as destruction of the Pakistan Army to be followed by occupation of Pakistan and its wealth.

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CSO: 4600/74

EDITORIAL VIEWS SAARC BANGALORE MEETING

BK261405 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Nov 86 p 7

[Editorial: "SAARC: Confronting Reality To Forge Ahead"]

[Text] As the second summit of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] opens today at Bangalore, one cannot but note that a certain lack of political will to get the organisation going full steam ahead clouds the future prospects of this regional organisation. Working on the assumption that close economic cooperation and a common approach on certain regional issues could eventually lead this, one of the world's poorest regions, to a better political environment, SAARC had adopted a low-key approach seeking to handle only issues free from friction and political conflict. The assumption being that as the benefits of cooperation become visible to individual nations, it will create the momentum for a coordinated approach to the more important issues. However, what appears to have been overlooked is the need for the political will to give cooperative economic endeavour a reasonable chance of succeeding. Nor can Sahabzada Yakub Khan's statement that other regional associations, too, have been troubled by 'slow gestation' periods in their evolutionary stages be of any great comfort. For it is apparent that SAARC's troubles arise not so much out of technical difficulties at getting the association going as they do out of the political tensions that mar the relations between the regional states. Today, as the summiteers gather in Bangalore, relations between the two major states of the region--Pakistan and India--are so low as to threaten the entire concept of regional cooperation.

To continue to brush aside major issues, in the hope that progress in minor matters will one day culminate in generating a momentum towards clearing the air is to indulge in wishful thinking. Nor is it advisable to justify SAARC's slow start by comparing it with other regional organisations. The EC [European Community], for example, which is often held up as an example to SAARC as a community of nations that has overcome centuries of hostility to achieve an economic union almost supranational in its outlook, started off on a different plane. Devastated by two world wars--the result of militant nationalism--the European governments, were

open to the concept of a multinational organisation that would ensure greater, collective, economic wellbeing. Hence the political commitment to the concept of a common market. In South Asia, on the other hand, no effort has been made to come to terms with history and the political realities that are a result of it. Bitter memories of the past, combined with a failure to work out initiatives--political, economic, social--that would help build confidence among the many peoples of the region, have meant that bilateral tensions continue to dominate political relations. To ignore the effect of these tensions is to turn a blind eye to reality. An improved political environment alone will enable SAARC to fulfill the hopes that South Asians have come to associate with it.

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CSO: 4600/68

ZIA VOWS TO KEEP LOCAL COUNCILS APOLITICAL

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Nov 86 p 3

[Excerpt]

SIALKOT. Nov 17: President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, on Monday, stressed the need of keeping the local bodies institution free from party politics and said that this institution which had laid the foundations of democracy in the country, had greatly contributed towards the development of all the provinces only from staying aloof from party politics.

Inaugurating the social welfare school for the deaf in the Social Welfare and Health Society Services Complex here he referred to the addresses of the Chairman District Council, Sialkot, Mayor of the City and vice-chairman of the Cantonment Board and said that the local bodies institution had put the country on the path to progress and prosperity with the cooperation and support of the masses and the encouragement of the government.

The President said when the martial law government introduced the local body system in the country it had decided to keep it aloof from party politics as under party politics it would have lost its usefulness and would have served the interests of some party and not the people and the country.

He said that the local bodies system had provided the people with facilities like roads, schools, health services, potable water and sewerage system and added, now that the national and provincial assemblies had come into being these institutions must work in unison and coordinate with each other.

/9274

CSO: 4600/71

COMMENTARY DISCUSSES ZIA'S REMARKS ON DEMOCRACY

Karachi DAWN in English 19 Nov 86 p 7

[Commentary by Watchman]

[Text]

EVERY now and then General Zia-ul-Haq makes a statement which sends ripples of alarm throughout the land. His observation at the Iqbal Day function in Lahore that we are all obsessed with Western democracy which was far removed from Iqbal's conception of an Islamic State has had precisely this effect as if what he has said signifies something novel and strange.

One charge that can't be brought against Gen Zia is that of inconsistency. Whether his ideas are described as principles, fixed notions or a bundle of uninformed prejudices, it would be extremely difficult to prove that he has ever deviated from them. For instance, he has never made any bones about his loathing for conventional Western style democracy. Why should his remarks cause any surprise now? The element of unpredictability inherent in any free elections he has always distrusted. Hence the emphasis on "positive" results and the cancellation twice of promised polls in October 1977 and November 1979 because positive results could not be guaranteed at the time.

The 1985 elections were held from a position of strength, after the ground had been carefully prepared and the political parties had been excluded from the race. This was a constitutional innovation

which even countries like South Korea, Turkey and Bangladesh (with whom Pakistan can justly stand comparison) have not attempted. And what's more, those elections, as the President admitted at the Iqbal Day function, were held by him "with a heavy heart."
dil pay pathar rakh kar

It is also no secret that Gen Zia was not in favour of reviving the party system on the grounds that such a step so soon after the lifting of Martial Law would have a snowballing effect and give rise to problems beyond the ability of the Junejo Government to handle. In his first address before the newly elected Parliament, he told the members to work the new experiment cautiously, eschewing any kind of adventurism. The new set-up, he emphasised, signified no radical break with the past and was merely its continuation.

Under the circumstances, it was not surprising that the President viewed with considerable misgivings the Prime Minister's moves in the direction of political liberalisation which, in his opinion, went against the grain of a system contrived with such painstaking care. It is hard not to be swayed by the logic in this design. The Prime Minister, after all, is operating in a vacuum without any constituency or power base of his own. His Government is being sustained by the armed forces, without whose help it would find even minor crises insurmountable. The President is not just a constitutional figurehead, he is the source of all power and the Chief of the Army Staff. It is this factor which gives strength to the

civilian order and which also enables the Army to come to the aid of the civil power with such ease and alacrity. A purely civilian Prime Minister with no institutional links to the armed forces would soon be out of office if he requested the Army's assistance once too often.

When Mr Bhutto imposed a "mini" Martial Law in Lahore in April 1977 the political initiative began slipping from his grasp. Almost overnight the demeanour of Gen Iqbal, the Lahore Corps Commander, underwent a dramatic change. Even the challenge posed by Miss Bhutto and the PPP has been defused for the time being not by the Federal Government but by Mr Nawaz Sharif, acting, it can be imagined, in concert with other powers behind the scenes. Given this situation, Gen Zia merely underscores the obvious when he cautions the hawks in the present civilian set-up not to take their democracy too seriously or for granted.

All said and done, however, Gen Zia's observations concerning Western democracy are primarily relevant to his own constituency — not for the population at large which should not be expected to swallow his views with the same degree of tolerance or understanding. The inflection which he gives to "Western" democracy reveals his prejudices on this score. But the distinction between this and Islamic democracy, a distinction the President is fond of making, is one that not even the meanest student of political science will readily accept. Western democracy, if one insists on using the adjective, simply stands for a government freely elected by, and answerable to, the people. It also implies acceptance of such fundamental freedoms as that of speech, association and assembly whose validity is so univer-

sally accepted that even the most dictatorial regimes do not hesitate to pay lip service to them. To suggest even by implication that these fundamental rights and the concept of representative government are alien to the spirit of Islam is to do a grave disservice to a religion we never tire of proclaiming as the world's most enlightened and most progressive.

After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, one should not need to be reminded that the nation's founding fathers envisioned a democratic future for the country or that Pakistan itself was achieved through constitutional and democratic means. The revisionist tide has flowed so powerfully all these years that retrieving the original vision of Pakistan seems an almost impossible task. Iqbal, too, has not survived this fate. In Iran he may be considered one of the foremost progressive Islamic thinkers of modern times, on a par with Jamaluddin Afghani and Ali Shariati, but at home he is increasingly being identified with the most reactionary and obscurantist doctrines.

In one respect, however, the President's formulations on Western democracy have come uncomfortably close to the truth. Nine years of Martial Law have changed the basic nature of Pakistani politics. New forces and new realities have risen to the surface sweeping away many of the old totem poles held in such high esteem by the liberal middle classes. Elsewhere this development might have encouraged the birth of radical forces but not in Pakistan where the political parties continue to operate on the basis of assumptions, rooted in the concepts of Western democracy, which are increasingly becoming outdated and irrelevant.

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CSO: 4600/72

COPIES OF AMNESTY REPORT ALLEGEDLY WITHHELD

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Nov 86 p 8

[Text]

LAHORE, Nov. 19 Copies of the Amnesty International report for the year 1986 received in Lahore for a number of citizens have been withheld by the customs authorities. The reason given related to technical formalities although according to a reliable account the copies of the report have been taken over by some intelligence agency.

Copies of the Amnesty report, as understood, had been received at the General Post Office Lahore more than three weeks ago and handed over to the customs by the postal authorities. The addressees, in the meantime were asked by the Customs authorities to produce documents such as a NOC from the drug controller, the State Bank and import permit. The letter stating that the report has been withheld for "verification" took 13 days to travel the distance of a few kilometres in Lahore.

As was later known intelligence officials have taken over the report from the Customs and have been "studying" the report ever since. It is noteworthy that Amnesty International has been very critical of the Pakistan Government's record on human rights. Treatment given to the political prisoners by the police and jail authorities has remained under constant criticism by Amnesty. Copies of the report were addressed to prominent citizens such as Dr. Mubashar Hasan, S.M. Zafar and others.

PRESS GALLERY

From Page 1

ten MNAs, is already the largest opposition group at the National Assembly and their leader should be recognised as the leader of the opposition. Rumours were also being spread that some of the OPG members are deserting Fakhar Imam.

While the Opposition was guessing what motivated Haji Saifullah to come out in favour of the Government so openly, the PML was busy solving the mystery of its members lack of interest in the Assembly proceedings. The Finance Minister, who is now also the chief whip of his party, presided over a meeting this afternoon. Attended by the PML MNAs, some MPAs from Punjab and a couple of Ministers, the meeting is believed to have devised means to tackle with the quorum problem.

Provincial whips and deputy whips will soon be appointed to ensure the attendance at the Assemblies. Punjab and Sind, being bigger than the other two provinces, will have more than one whip. The present whips at the provinces will be changed.

The selection of Yasin Wattoo as the chief whip also caused speculations about the future of the party's Secretary General, Iqbal Ahmad Khan. Mr. Wattoo has vast experience as secretary general of political parties and before coming to the Muslim League he was the secretary general of the PPP.

However, the members emerging from the PML meeting assured the curious reporters that Iqbal Khan's future — both as the party's secretary general and a minister — was secure.

As in previous PML meetings, the members complained against the attitude of the Ministers, the Ministers against other Ministers and then all joined in complaining against the indifference of the bureaucrats.

Some PML members again talked about the possibility of a war. India is going to attack and the national Press was showing no interest in the imminent threat from across the borders. They wanted the media to awaken the masses to the possibility of an Indian attack and mobilise them for any eventuality.

The journalists who were but only half convinced turned to Air Marshal (Retd) Nur Khan for his counsel as he has more experience of such matters than anybody else in the House. Nur Khan totally rejected the possibility of a war with India. Indians, he said, will never attack unless they are provoked.

What one does not understand is why the PML members have not taken any notice of the Prime Minister's categorical assurance at the airport the other day. "There are no chances of an attack from India," he had declared on his return from that country. Then who wants to create a war psychosis in the country and who will gain from it? It's anybody's guess. would create further bitterness and hatred among the people. The only way to deal with the situation was by political means.

Members of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Liaquat Baluch, Asad Gilani and Usman Ramz, supported the motion, arguing that the situation prevailing in the province warranted immediate attention of the Government. The motion, they said, should be accepted for debate so that the House could formulate proposals for an effective solution of these problems. Maulana Gohar Rehman agreed with the mover that the arrests were ill timed but demanded stern action against those who were working for the dismemberment of the country. Bashir Randhawa proposed that a commission be set up to probe the affairs of the province.

Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan regretted that Punjab was blamed even for the actions taken by the leaders of Sind. He said the people of Punjab never snatched the rights of their brethren living in the smaller provinces.

He deplored that the feelings of provincialism were spread to create hatred against the people of Punjab. He added, Punjab always whole-heartedly accepted the leadership of other provinces.

He strongly condemned the movement of disintegration of the country, launched by a handful of political elements. He said that no government, anywhere in the world, would allow activities calculated to dismember the country. He said the movement of

separation should not be allowed at any cost.

He emphasised that every citizen should be loyal to his motherland. He further said that no compromise could be made on the question of the integrity of the country.

He said the motion was related to the provincial government. However, the Federal Government should also fulfil its constitutional responsibility to overcome the situation in Sind.

Mr. Hamza raised technical objections on the motion. The issue, he added, did not fall within the purview of an adjournment motion.

Syed Fakhar Imam was of the view that two hours discussion could be allowed in the light of previous ruling on such a motion.

Interior Minister Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak expressed his strong indignation and anger over the talks of disintegration of the country from certain quarters. Opposing the adjournment motion he said: "The people who are raising the slogans of confederation and provincialism are committing treachery to the nation". The Minister opposed the motion, describing it as a provincial subject.

He pointed out that a major portion of the country split away because of the curse of provincialism. He said that the conditions prevailing on the country's borders are worse than those at the time since the breakaway of East Pakistan.

The Interior Minister said that keeping in view the conditions obtaining in the country, nobody could be allowed to propagate the idea of confederation and create a 'Mahaz' of three smaller provinces against the big province of the country. He added that any move to spread the feelings of hatred among the provinces would be harmful for the country.

He maintained that he always himself thought as a Pakistani and not as a Punjabi, Pathan or Sindhi. He said the peasants of Punjab have far more grievances as compared to others.

There are many areas in Punjab too which are underdeveloped, he added.

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CSO: 4600/71

MINISTER CLARIFIES POSITION ON SHARIAT BILL

Karachi DAWN in English 19 Nov 86 pp 1, 5

[Text]

NOVEMBER 18: Federal Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Wasim Sajjad Jan has said the Government is sincere in enforcing Shariat in the country, but clarified that "there is a great difference between the Shariat and Shariat Bill, tabled by the private members in the Senate."

He was opposing a point of order, raised by Mr Liaquat Baluch, in the National Assembly, soon after it resumed its session on Tuesday with a delay of 45 minutes.

The Jamaat's MNA on a point of order had asked the chair to suspend the proceedings in order to discuss the Government's action of "preventing" people from participating in the protest meeting of the Mutahida Shariat Mahaz outside the Assembly.

Eleven MNAs, mostly belonging to Jamaat-i-Islami staged a walk-out after the chair ruled the point out of order.

Mr Wasim Sajjad Jan said the Government and the people have reservations over the Shariat Bill tabled by some members of the Senate. He said that there was no difference of opinion on the issue of "enforcing Shariat," but, added, it was on the mode of implementation.

The Justice Minister said that a large majority of people in the country felt that the present Shariat Bill, tabled by the private members, would not lead to a proper enforcement of Shariat in the country. "I state with full responsibility that Islam and Shariat

have never been an issue in this country," he said, adding that "we are all Musalmans and have no difference of opinion over the religion."

The Justice Minister said the Government's decision to enforce Shariat was not an academic declaration as it has already moved the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill in Parliament to make the present laws in conformity with the tenets of Quran and Sunnah.

SHARIAT COURT: He said that after the passage of the bill, the Federal Shariat Court would be fully empowered to review any law of the country and to declare them against Islam, if they were found to be so. He admitted that presently some laws were out of the jurisdiction of the Federal Shariat Court.

Opposing the point of order on technical grounds he said that a point of order could only be raised on an issue related with the proceedings of the Assembly. He said that the present issue was not related in any way with the proceedings, hence pleaded the chair to rule it out of order.

ALLEGATIONS DENIED: Earlier, Interior Minister Aslam Khattak, while replying to an accusation made by the members of Jamaat-i-Islami that the processionists had been stopped by the Punjab Government on the instructions of the Federal Government, said that the allegation was uncalled for. "We are not that helpless. We could have stopped them from assembling outside the Parliament building," he said adding "the present Government believes in freedom of expression and speech be-

'cause of which we have never stopped anyone from assembling outside the Parliament building."

The Interior Minister said the House has a collective responsibility to introduce Shariat in the country. However, he accepted that there were a number of difficulties in introducing Shariat. He said the Government wanted to introduce a Shariat which would be acceptable to all.

He said the Punjab Government might have stopped the processions in order to maintain law and order in the province as recently they had sectarian disturbances in the province.

Mr Aslam Khattak agreed with a member that the Parliament building should not be made a point to hold these meetings. He said there should be some park where such meetings should be held, adding that "if we allow political parties to hold meetings outside the Parliament building, then there were many other parties, with greater majority, who would surround the House."

POINT OF ORDER: Earlier, Mr Liaquat Baluch said that the matter of preventing people from attending the meeting was of great public importance.

He was supported by Mr Wasi Mazhar Nadvi, Prof Usman Ramz, Chaudhry Mohammad Iqbal Chalianwala, Begum Nisar Fatima, Syed Asad Gilani, Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan, Mr Muzaffar Hashmi, and Maulana Gohar Rehman.

They maintained that the Central Government had instructed the provincial governments of NWFP and Punjab to prevent people from coming to Islamabad. They said the NWFP Government refused to obey the orders of the Central Government and allowed the people to attend the meeting whereas the Punjab Government stopped the people when they crossed Attock Bridge. They maintained that similarly people coming from lower Punjab were stopped at various places.

Mr Javed Hashmi severely opposed the point of order raised by Mr Liaquat Baluch. He said that the Government should not enforce the

Shariat of one sect over the people, adding that there was great difference of opinion over the issue among Ulema. He termed the present private members Shariat Bill as "seeds of dissent," adding that the Muslims could no more be fooled by such slogans.

Mr Abdullah Ghazi, opposing the point of order, said that Jamaat-i-Ahle Sunnat has already announced its dissociation from the present public meeting because of which the people boycotted the meeting. He said the Government never stopped the people from expressing their views and it was unjust to make such accusations against it.

HYDE PARK: Mir Zafarullah Jamali said he would not oppose the public meeting but it should have been held at some other place. He demanded of the Government to allot some suitable place for holding such meetings in the Federal Capital like the "Hyde Park" so that the Assembly building should not be surrounded.

Khan Mohammad Arif Khan advised the Government to hold negotiations with Ulema, belonging to all sects, in order to reach a formula for introducing Shariat in the country. He said that the present Shariat Bill of the private members was not acceptable to some other sects of religion.

The chair ruled out of order the point raised by Mr Liaquat Baluch on the grounds that it did not relate to the proceedings of the House.

WALK-OUT: Soon after the Speaker's ruling, some members walked out against the statement of Mr Wasim Sajjad Jan and Mr Aslam Khattak.

Those who staged walk-out include Mr Asad Gilani, Prof Usman Ramz, Maulana Gohar Rehman, Maulana Wasi Mazhar Nadvi, Mr Muzaffar Hashmi, Sahibzada Fatehullah, Begum Nisar Fatima, Haji Fazle Raziq and Maulana Inayat-ur-Rehman.

Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan also staged a token walk-out in favour of these members.

Mr M.P. Bhandara was the only member who staged walk-out as a protest against the inefficiency of the Government in preventing a mob from surrounding the Parliament building.

COMMITTEE RESOLVES TO 'STRUGGLE AGAINST' SHARIAT BILL

Karachi DAWN in English 19 Nov 86 pp 1, 5

[Text]

KARACHI, Nov 18: A Joint Action Committee, comprising 31 progressive organisations, on Tuesday held a largely-attended seminar to protest against the Shariat Bill and Ninth Amendment at the Karachi Press Club.

A large number of people heard Prof. Karrar Hussain, Mr. Minhaj Barna, Barrister Wadood, Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan and Ms. Anis Haroon spoke on the repercussions of the proposed Bills on the public.

In her address, Ms Anis Haroon said that the Joint Action Committee of progressive groups, formed on the initiative of Women's Action Forum, was prepared to launch a long struggle against the Shariat and Ninth Amendment Bills.

She noted that the Ninth Amendment would increase the power of the Mullahs and Shariat Courts and harm laws like the Family Law Ordinance of 1939, which enabled the

right of divorce to women.

The Shariat Bill would tan sectarianism and deny women and minorities the rights given to them by the 1973 Constitution, she added.

Mr. Minhaj Barna claimed that the Government was misquoting Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Allama Iqbal when it insisted that they were opposed to secularism.

He said that "the secular system does not negate religion," and quoted the Quaid and Iqbal's sayings in favour of secularism.

Barrister Wadood, who traced how successive Governments in Pakistan had acted under the influence of fundamentalist religious forces, noted with regret that while the developed nations were advancing into a second technological revolution "we are still trying to identify our basic problems."

He shouted that no progress was possible as long as the basic rights of men and women were denied.

He pointed out that the Shariat Bill would reduce women and minorities to second class citizens and deprive them of their rights before the judiciary.

Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan, in his keynote address, informed the audience that the Quaid-i-Azam had piloted the Child Marriages Restraint Act in 1929 before the Legislative Assembly in India despite the opposition of over 72,000 Ulema.

The Shariat Bill and the Ninth Amendmentist interpretations of the Qu-

Amendment Bill, he said, would give Mullah's the right to make obs-
ran and the Sunnah.

He gave few examples of how the Shariat Courts had been functioning in Pakistan.

Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan said that in the case of Sialkot couple that was not getting along, the Shariat Court found that one of the witnesses to their marriage twelve years ago was a Ahmediya and ruled that they should be punished accordingly.

Prof. Karrar Hussain, who presided over the gathering, said that the Shariat Bill and Ninth Amendment law were attempts to maintain the status quo and to spread confusion by getting people involved in "non-issues."

He started that the state of a society can be judged by the status awarded to its women.

Prof. Karrar pointed out that the proposed Shariat Bill and Ninth Amendment would have "the worst impact on women."

A poem against exploitation was read out by poet Ahmed Faraz on the occasion.

In addition, messages were read out from various organizations pledging support in the fight against the Shariat Bill.

The Women's Action Forum condemned the recent incident of acid-throwing in Karachi University on female students. Other women's groups, participating in the seminar, included Sindhi Women's Tehrik, Anjuman-i-Jamhooriyat Pasand Khawateen Bazm Amna and the Pakistan People's Party (Women's Wing).

RALLY CALLS FOR SHARIAT BILL'S PASSAGE

Karachi DAWN in English 19 Nov 86 pp 1, 5

[Text]

NOVEMBER, 18: The Mutahida Shariat Mahaz held its much-trumpeted meeting outside the Parliament building on Tuesday morning demanding of the Government to pass the private members Shariat Bill or quit.

The meeting which, according to an earlier claim of the organisers, was expected to draw at least one lakh people could muster a crowd of not more than ten thousand.

Despite the claim of the organisers that some participants were prevented from reaching the meeting venue, about a hundred odd buses, including one from Peshawar University, were seen bringing Shariat Bill protagonists from different parts of the Punjab and NWFP.

The people started assembling at the venue at 9 a.m. and later the crowd began swelling.

An eight-foot-high stage was erected outside the Parliament building flanked by a Pakistani flag on the right and Mutahida Shariat Mahaz's flag on the left.

A large number of police surrounded the Parliament Building while a fairly large number of policemen in different uniforms were posted some a few hundred yards away.

Till 11.30 a.m. the well-disciplined crowd was in a mood to listen to their leaders as till that time no prominent leader had addressed them. About 30 speakers addressed the meeting which continued for more than four hours at a stretch.

Mr Liaquat Baluch, who had earlier staged a walk-out from the Assembly along with some other Jammal MNAs, was one who created some stir by his fiery speech, lashing out at the present regime.

Maulana Abdul Hakim, former MNA and Senator, and a leader of the Mahaz made a frontal attack on President Zia-ul-Haq accusing him of "frauding the nation by using the name of Islam."

He said that the President could have had introduced Shariat by one martial law order, if he had wanted. He also formally announced the launching of the movement against the regime adding that the Mahaz would observe "Black-day" on next Friday.

The movers of the Shariat Bill in the Senate, Maulana Samiul Haq and Maulana Qazi Abdul Lateef also addressed the meeting.

Maulana Samiul Haq said that those opposing the Shariat Bill belonged to "Hizb-i-Shaitan." He said that the Shariat Bill has united all sects of the religion adding that there was no difference of opinion on the issue.

He said that they were fighting against a system, inherited from the Britishers. Commenting on the objection, being raised in some quarters, that the bill was contrary to some articles of the Constitution, Maulana Samiul Haq said in that case the Constitution should be brought in conformity with Quran and Sunnah.

He said that Constitution should be subservient to Quran and not vice versa. Maulana pointed out that if the Assembly could give protection to the martial law orders and ordinances by amending the Constitution, why such an exercise could not be repeated for passing the Shariat Bill.

Qazi Abdul Lateef mainly discussed the Shariat Bill, tabled by him, and challenged the Government to prove that any clause of the bill was repugnant to the teachings of Islam and Quran. He said that the main

nised the present assemblies adding "if the Government was acting on their advice that it should also fulfil their other demand of transferring power."

Qazi Hussain Ahmad, Secretary General of the Mahaz, said that US and Soviet agents were opposing the Shariat Bill. He said that all the sects of religion have united under the flag of Shariat Mahaz to press for the acceptance of the Bill. He said that MRD had failed to reach any understanding on any issue, and it was because of the Shariat Bill, that the *ulema* have formed one platform.

He was of the opinion that sectarianism would die its natural death if the Bill was adopted.

Others who addressed the meeting included Qari Saeedur Rehman, Qari Israrul Haq, Raja Mohammad Amir, Maulana Abdul Aziz Jalali, Maulana Ashraf Khan, Maulana Inayatullah Gujrati, Chaudhry Sanaullah, Mian Fazle Haq, Maulana Manzoor Ahmad Chnniori, Mufti Abdul Qayyum Hazarvi, Hafiz Abdul Qadir Ropz, Maulana Alauddin, Syed Habibur Rahman Shah Bukhari, Maulana Ghulam Rasool Rashdi, Maulana Mohammad Ashraf, and Mufti Mohammad Rafi Usmani.

The meeting was presided over by Maulana Abdul Haq, Amir of the Shariat Mahaz who also led the prayers after the meeting.

The supporters of the Mahaz raised slogans in favour of the Bill and also against the ruling party

objective of the bill was to "free the man from the clutches of another man."

He said that the Prime Minister has not held any meeting with the leaders of the Shariat Mahaz till to date. He demanded that the Prime Minister should hold a direct meeting with the Mahaz leaders so that the latter could express their view point.

Han Mohammad Saifullah, MNA, was the only member from the opposition group who addressed the meeting. He said that Pakistan was created in the name of Islam and it was the duty of the Government to enforce Islamic system in the country.

He assured the public that he would support the bill as and when it was tabled before the National Assembly and would leave no stone unturned for its early passage.

Maulana Mufti Mohammad Hussain Naeemi, member of the Islamic Ideology Council, addressing the meeting also criticised President Zia-ul-Haq and held him responsible for not enforcing Islamic system in the country during his eight years of dictatorial rule. He said that those *ulema* who were opposing the Bill were "*Ulema-i-Soo*".

Maulana Gohar Rehman, MNA, severely lashed out at the ruling party for opposing the Bill. He said either the Government should enforce Shariat in the country or quit. He said those opposing the Shariat Bill were those who have not recog-

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CSO: 4600/72

GOVERNMENT ACCUSED OF BACKING SEPARATISTS

Karachi DAWN in English 19 Nov 86 p 5

[Text]

HYDERABAD, Nov 18: The Central Chairman of Mahajir Ittehad Tehrik, Mr Saleem Hyder, has alleged that the present Government has encouraged separatist movements to prolong its rule and discouraged the forces, which stood for Pakistan's integrity and solidarity.

Addressing the members of Hyderabad District Bar Association on Tuesday, he said Mohajirs had played an important role in the development of Sind and loved Sind as much as any one could love his own birthplace.

If they voiced grievances then it should not be considered a complaint against Sindhis, he added.

He recalled that when One Unit was breathing its last it was Mohajir's representatives who had unanimously demanded the inclusion in Sind of Karachi, which was then a Federally-controlled area.

Mr Hyder regretted that during the recent disturbances, when atrocities were being committed against Mohajirs, the rural population remained silent spectators.

He expressed the hope that the people of rural areas would support Mohajirs in their demand for ending the quota system and other pre-

judicial policies.

He expressed his astonishment that while Afghans refugees had been provided a shelter in Pakistan in the name of Islam and humanity, two-and-a-half lakh Pakistanis, who had fought for the integrity and salvation of Pakistan and given immense sacrifices to protect Pakistan's armed forces, were rotting in Bangladesh camps.

He pointed out that on the one hand it was being questioned as to why did not the Mohajirs call themselves Sindhis and on the other it was being said that Sindhis were being turned into minority.

He said if Mohajirs and Sindhis stood as one entity then none would dare usurp the rights of Sind.

But he warned, if the Mohajirs were pushed aside, then the vested interests could convert Sindhis into minority.

Addressing a Press conference here on Monday, he said that it was established that there was a hidden hand of the Government in the recent riots.

Mr Hyder said the policies of the Government were leading the people to direct confrontation. He condemned the atrocities against the innocent people by the police and constabulary.

He criticised the Government for its partisan attitude and said that while no action had been taken against the guilty, the victims had been arrested, imprisoned and were being tortured. He said the MQM chief, Mr Altaf Hussain, was arrested and even his place of imprisonment was being kept secret.

He said the recent atrocities against Mohajirs should be a matter of concern for the whole province and if it was not considered as such, then Sind would be divided in two parts. He said the only change in the attitude of the Government in respect of the quota system was that it had started expressing its opinion on the issue and appointed a committee to take stock of the situation.

He, however, warned that there was no justification whatever to continue the quota system and if such recommendations were made this would divide the people of the province.

Answering a question that he was an agent of the Punjab, Mr Saleem said he stood for the unity, integrity and solidarity of Pakistan and the Urdu language, and was not ashamed of propounding these ideals.

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CSO: 4600/72

ASSEMBLY DEBATES SENATE ELECTION AMENDMENT BILL

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Nov 86 p 8

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 19: The National Assembly today continued discussion to amend the Senate Election (Amendment) Bill 1986 with speakers emphasising to deliberate more seriously on the subject.

Speaking first Haji Muhammad Saifullah Khan said that more authority was sought to be vested in the Election Commissioner than the Election Commission whose role in the conduct of the last referendum and the elections was already controversial.

He said in any case it was always wise to give importance to the institutions and not the individuals. He said the country's election history was replete with instances of rigging which had cost the nation some major catastrophes. He said the individuals could be influenced but it was difficult to manipulate the institutions. He said the government should take lessons from history and try maintaining sanctity of the ballot and democracy.

He also said that the government just wanted the House to put a stamp of its approval to the Election Commissioners' conduct during the recent elections. But the House would be wise to give a very serious thought before doing so. The constitutional provisions, if changed to give powers to the Election Commissioner rather than the Election Commission would lead to many more such amendments in the Constitution, and any attempt to get the Bill through on the basis of majority would be very unfortunate. He said due consideration should be given to the Bill and he was even prepared that the Bill be referred to the select Committee of the House to elicit expert opinion and give more thought to the subject.

Syeda Abida Hussain said that the House should uphold the protection to the institutions rather

than the individuals. She said the electoral history of the nation has been that we have not had any uncontroversial elections which gave rise to the instability to the country and the usurpers and dictators. She said the bill under discussion would have a lasting effect on the country's politics and therefore the House should give maximum thought to the Bill. She was still making her point when the House rose for the day to meet

again at 9.30 a.m. tomorrow.

Speaking on the Bill further to amend the Senate (Election) (Amendment) Bill, 1986 as passed by the Senate, Haji Muhammad Saifullah Khan said that the motive of the Bill was to reward the Chief Election Commissioner who had performed his job to satisfy the Chief Martial Law Administrator by whom he was appointed.

He said that the December, 1984 Referendum was a big joke with the nation in which the Chief Election Commissioner had played a vital role. After the Referendum, the Chief Election Commissioner, he argued, had to be rewarded in the shape of bringing about an amendment in the Constitution to give more powers to him.

In the past he said the Election Commissioners held elections in 1962, 1977 and the 1984 Referendum and results of those elections and role of the Election Commissioners were fully known to the people. It was in this background that the Election Commission was constituted. The Election Commission, he said, was fully equipped with the powers and to give all the powers to one man was solely designed to serve the interest of the individuals. He was of the view that an individual could easily be influenced by the government as compared to a full fledged institution.

He urged the rulers to maintain the sanctity of the ballot and demo-

cracy. The sanctity of the elections, he said, should be maintained at all costs as it played a great role in the promotion of democracy.

On a point of personal explanation in response to a point of order raised by Dr. Zulfiqar Burni that he was a party to validating the 1984 Referendum of which he was today critical, Haji Saifullah gave the background under which he did so.

He said that it was in the national interest. The main purpose before him at the time of validating the Referendum, he said, was to get the nation rid of the Martial Law.

He quoted the Quaid-e-Azam, who he said, had accepted the partition against his wishes.

The Quaid, he said, at that time knew that he was getting lesser than he wanted. Even then he accepted the partition for the greater objective the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims. Recalling the situation in which he had validated the Referendum, he argued that he too did it to establish the supremacy of the Assembly for the promotion of a democratic set up in the country.

Haji Muhammad Saifullah asked why this piece of legislation was presented prior to other important bills. He strongly objected that the powers of the Chief Election Commission were being vested to an individual, Chief Election Commissioner. Under Article 219 of the Constitution, the member from Rahimyar Khan said that it was the constitutional responsibility of the Chief Election Commissioner to hold impartial and free elections in the country. The Election Commission, he explained, would continue to function up to March, 23, 1990. After this, he added, new Election Commission would be constituted to hold the next general elections.

Haji Saifullah observed that if this Bill would be passed as such, some other amendments would

also be made to cover it. Besides, he opined some constitutional amendments might be required to be made.

He viewed that hasty legislation should be avoided and legislative business ought not be made a point of ego by the government.

While making laws, Haji Saifullah contended that all the differences and affiliations should be made subservient to the national interest. He observed that legislation was given utmost importance in the civilized and independent nations.

This Bill is ostensibly ordinary, but as a matter of fact, he said that it would have far-reaching effects on the future of the country.

He urged the Justice Minister to send it to the Standing Committee to examine the Bill in detail in the larger national interest. It was a wrong impression that stumbling blocks were unnecessarily being put in the passage of the Bill.

Haji Saifullah said that had the Bill sent to the Standing Committee, the lengthy discussion on the Bill could be avoided. He hoped that the Justice Minister would calmly consider his arguments regarding the Senate Election Bill.

Syeda Abida Husain said that withdrawing powers from a collective body to vest the authority in an individual was against the spirit of Islam. The nation, she said, had suffered at the hands of autocratic rulers.

The forum was to share power and not for vesting authority, she said, and added that power must be reposed in the representatives of the people.

The role of the Chief Election Commissioner was a controversial one. The nation, she said, had history of four turbulent decades. There was not a single election held so far which was undisputed by all sections of society. The electoral controversy paved the way for military intervention in the past, she said.

MRD CALLS FOR INTERIM GOVERNMENT

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, Dec. 7: The Central Action Committee of the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) has demanded setting up of an interim Government in the country for holding general elections under the 1973 Constitution within 120 days.

The demand was voiced through a resolution adopted at the two-day meeting of the Action Committee which concluded in the city today. The Committee also demanded withdrawal of the Armed Forces and civilian forces from other provinces deployed in Sind to prevent spreading of regional hatred.

The MRD Action Committee called for release of all political prisoners, abolition of sentences passed by Military Courts and general amnesty for the politicians living abroad. It called upon all sections of the society to unite and struggle for restoration of real democracy in the country. It rejected the foreign policy dictated by foreign power which had turned Pakistan into a client state.

The MRD Central Action Committee announced that it wanted to convert Pakistan into a land of peace for the establishment of a democratic system of Government. It favoured peaceful solution of all national and international problems and wanted Pakistan to have friendly relations with all the countries of

the world on equal footing. It favoured freedom from foreign influences and detachment from Super Power politics for maintaining the non-aligned status of the country.

The MRD Central Action Committee was of the view that the country faced serious internal and external threats which were the result of the policies pursued by the Government. The threats to national security and integrity could be eliminated only by undoing what had been done during the past 9 years with a view to perpetuate power. All institutions had been demolished by the new political set-up imposed under the 1985 Constitution and the reign of Martial Law. A Super Power had tightened its grip on the national economy and put the solidarity and integrity of the country at stake besides creating problems like unemployment, corruption, inflation, lawlessness and a sense of insecurity.

The MRD Central Action Committee also decided to abolish itself and form a National Council for laying down the MRD policies in future. The Council will consist of six members from each constituent party of the MRD and will meet at least once in a quarter. The Central Action Committee consisted of four members from each constituent party of the MRD. A Central Executive Committee consisting

of two members from each constituent party of the MRD will also be formed.

Briefing the newsmen about the proceedings of the MRD Central Action Committee meeting, the MRD Convenor, Mr. Abdur Rahim Mandokhel, and General Secretary, Malik Muhammad Qasim, said that the Committee had extended the date for holding of elections of the district and urban organisations of the MRD till January 31 next. Elections of the Provincial organisations of MRD will be held till December 31.

They said that the MRD had also decided to hold a public meeting in Sind on the birthday of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah (December 25). The meeting will be addressed by the central leadership of the MRD. The venue of the meeting would be decided later on. The Central Action Committee had also agreed to organise an all parties conference on the suggestion of the Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islam.

They said that the MRD could talk with the Government only on modalities of general elections.

/6091

CSO: 4600/81

SIND DOMICILE: GOVERNMENT TO VERIFY CERTIFICATES

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

KARACHI, Dec. 7: The Sind Government is contemplating to get all the domicile and permanent residence certificates verified from the offices of the issuing offices following detection of several hundred forged certificates. The forged certificates were submitted in different Government departments by the intending candidates at the time of recruitment and appointments, specially in Sind police.

Majority of such forged certificates were submitted by newcomers to the city of Karachi from other provinces. On arrival in the city, they managed to acquire forged certificates through agents who had been in this business for the last several years.

Some of the cases were detected by the offices of the Deputy Commissioners of Karachi, east, west and south, when these were referred by the Police Department for verification. The detections were made when the serial numbers of the certificates sent for verification were found forged.

According to a survey conducted, so far about 18,000 such forged certificates have been issued to the people, looking for jobs in police and other Government departments.

Concerned offices said that during the last two years 55,000 permanent residence certificates and 39,000 domicile certificates had been issued only in Karachi.

/6091

CSO: 4600/81

PPP LEADER DEMANDS ARMY'S WITHDRAWAL FROM SIND

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Nov 86 p 3

[Text]

NOVEMBER 19: Syed Qaim Ali Shah, member, Central Executive Committee, PPP, has strongly criticised the use of armed forces for maintaining law and order in Sind and the Punjab, and urged the Government to withdraw the Army from Sind.

Addressing a Press conference at the residence of Rao Hashim Khan, a former MNA, here on Wednesday, Syed Qaim Ali Shah said that recent ethnic clashes in Karachi followed by disturbances in Lahore and Quetta were the results of the Government's failure. By using troops for maintaining law and order, Gen Zia wanted to prove that only the Army could control the situation, he charged.

He said that economic, social and political frustration was its peak and only the PPP was keeping the people of different provinces together.

He said, "now the Government is planning to create religious tension under the garb of the Ninth Amendment Bill". The Government cannot solve the problems of the

people by diverting their attention from the real issue or by using force. The only solution lies in holding fresh elections under the 1973 Constitution.

Mr Qaim Ali Shah also invited the attention of the Election Commission towards the irregularities being committed in preparation of electoral rolls in Sind. He urged that the Commission should extend the time-limit for raising objections to the electoral lists. He said he had met the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr Justice S.A. Nusrat, last week and complained about the irregularities.

Replying to a question, he said that no PPP leader had contacted Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi to seek co-operation between the PPP and the NPP. He said that there was no chance of any co-operation or contract between the two parties. He said that PPP was a democratic party. Party elections had been completed in Sind while in the Punjab they would be held after the completion of the enrolment drive.

/9274

CSO: 4600/73

SIND NOT TO ACCEPT 'COLONY' TREATMENT, SAYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Nov 86 p 10

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Nov 19: Ever since the English created legislative assemblies in undivided India, Abdul Hameed Khan Jatoi's family has been in active politics. His father Qadir Bukhsh Khan Jatoi a member of the Bombay Assembly, was a contemporary of Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto and Mohammad Ayub Khuhro. Today few elder politicians from Sind have been returned to speak with such gusto and daring. Witness to the long chequered story of Pakistan's politics, the 64-year-old Abdul Hameed Khan delivered a hard-hitting speech in the National Assembly amidst pin-drop silence. His warning was crystal clear: "Don't treat Sind like a colony or else Sindhis will quit".

A former jail bird of the Bhutto and Zia regimes, Abdul Hameed Khan was disqualified, twice under the Elective Bodies Disqualification Act. Familiar with the jails of Larkana, Hyderabad, and Karachi, it seemed natural for Abdul Hameed Khan to serve notice through an adjournment motion on the detention of former Sind Chief Minister, Mumtaz Ali Bhutto. The tall stocky Sindhi landowner, wearing his customary white shalwar kameez and embroidered mirror Sindhi skull cap, rose on a point of order, at the very start of the session. Jatoi said his adjournment motion on Mumtaz's arrest had been thrust aside and he was constrained to present the real situation of Sind and Sindhis before the members.

Jatoi charged that the Sind Government was deliberately compounding the problems of Sind. In the recent clash, he said, between the Mohajirs and Pathans, Mumtaz Ali Bhutto had been arrested. Raising his voice the Dadu-based Abdul Hameed enquired: "Is it not signif-

icant that in the recent Mohajir-Pathan clash, Sindhis had been arrested.

"If the Sindhi-Baluch-Pakhtun Front (SBPF) was involved in the recent disturbances then why was no member of the SBPF in other provinces arrested?"

Jatoi said while he had a long record as an outspoken supporter of Pakistan's territorial integrity, it was his bounden duty to put the facts straight before the members. He was neither a friend nor relative of the confederationists. But the SBPF had in fact emerged out of the 40-year-old saga of ruthless discrimination against the people of Sind. The point to note was that he was jailed during the tenure of office of the sponsors of confederation. Yet I am speaking for those who are under detention because they are not responsible for the happenings in Sind. Who knows I will speak for the treasury benches when they are in jail", Jatoi said.

The former member of the Ayub and Bhutto Assemblies went on to enumerate the causes of Sindhi's dis-enchantment with the rulers of Islamabad. "Today three quarters of land in Sind is owned by people from other provinces and is the monopoly of the army and civil servants. The administrative services are run by non Sindhis and the current Governor, Chief Minister, IG, and four or five DIGs are not from Sind. The young generation of Sind, particularly the educated unemployed, are turning away from Pakistan. Instead of evolving systems of participation, Sindhi dissent is met with police excesses and jail sentences," Jatoi added in an animated voice.

There was a nostalgic tenor in Jatoi's address. To some his speech was reminiscent of East Pakistan

politician Nurul Amin's appeal to Ayub Khan in 1968 to notice the dark dismal clouds of disparity over East Bengal. The finale to Abdul Hameed's speech resounded in the National Assembly: "You are pushing the Sindhis to the brink of a precipice. My advice to you is let us all live like brothers. But if you want to treat us as a colony, then Sindhis will not accept this treatment and it will be goodbye".

PUNJAB DEFENDED: Haji Saifullah of Rahumyar Khan rising on a point of order, said the confederationists had raised anti-Pakistan slogans and they would not be allowed to raise them. Saifullah charged that Punjabis were being deliberately targeted for condemnation and maligned, when in every democratic dispensation in Pakistan the leadership had rested with a Sindhi. "We Punjabis," Haji Saifullah said with an emotional tinge in his tone, "are open-hearted. This House had unanimously demanded that the Governor of Sind be relieved and a Sindhi appointed. After all the Governor is appointed in consultation with the Prime Minister. Besides the Chief Minister of Sind is a Sindhi."

Toba Tek Singh's M. Hamza raising a technical objection said the subject of Jatoi's adjournment motion was in fact a provincial matter.

Liaquat Baluch said Punjabis were blamed unnecessarily and argued that Jatoi's motion on Mumtaz Bhutto's detention should be admitted for discussion.

Interior Minister Aslam Khattak said the members' first priority should be the interests of Pakistan.

Speaker Hamid Nasir Chattha ruled the motion out. The Abdul Hameed Jatoi interlude lasted for at least 40 minutes.

MOTION ON MUMTAZ BHUTTO'S ARREST RULED OUT

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Nov 86 p 10

[Text]

NOVEMBER 19: Mr Hamid Nasir Chatha, Speaker, National Assembly, on Wednesday ruled out of order, an adjournment motion regarding the arrest of Sindhi-Baluch-Pakhtoon Front leaders, observing that they were arrested by the Sind Government and the matter related to a provincial subject.

The adjournment motion was sought to be moved by Mr Abdul Hamid Jatoi, MNA from Dadu.

Arguing for the admissibility of his motion Mr Jatoi said the Sindhi leaders were arrested by the government at a time when the clashes were taking place between Mohajirs and Pathans. He said Sindhis were not involved in these clashes hence there was no justification for arresting them. Such steps, he added, were creating unrest and increasing bitterness between the provinces.

Mr Jatoi also took this opportunity to accuse Punjabis for appointing a Punjabi Governor, a Punjabi Home Secretary and a Punjabi I.G. of Police in Sind. He questioned whether there was dearth of Sindhis for such posts.

The opposition member claimed that the treatment being meted out to Sindhis at present was even worse than what they suffered under British rule.

He requested the chair to admit

the motion and not to rule it out of order on technical ground or on the ground of being a provincial issue. The East Pakistan problem was also treated as a "provincial issue", which eventually resulted in the separation of that Wing, he added.

Mr Abdul Hamid Jatoi also criticised the government for not providing an opportunity on official media especially T.V, to the opposition members of Parliament to present their viewpoint before the nation.

Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan could not swallow the allegations against Punjab levelled by a Sindhi MNA and rising on a point of order pleaded the case of his province with an equal parochial zeal.

He said that the present and the former governments were headed by Sindhi Prime Ministers, adding that it were the Sindhis who had been carrying out excesses on the people. He claimed that the demand for a Sindhi Governor in Sind was raised by Punjab.

"No voice would now be tolerated against the country", he said, adding the "whole country has been turned into a Hyde Park". Such a situation, he opined, was against the dignity of the nation.

Referring to the arrest of the SBPF leaders he said that they had been arrested by the provincial government. If any excess has been

committed, it was also by the Government of Sind, he pointed out.

Syed Asad Gilani and Prof Usman Ramz supported the contention of Mr Jatoi and demanded that the House should discuss, at length, the Sind situation. They maintained that the matter was of national importance and could not be ruled out of order on technical grounds.

Earlier, Interior Minister Aslam Khattak, while opposing the motion, said Pakistanis should shun provincial feelings and pointed out that the separation of East Pakistan was the result of mutual hatred between provinces. He appealed to the people and the elected representatives to adopt a national approach to national issues.

He regretted that while high tension was prevailing on the borders, some elements were talking about the confederation plan. He also pleaded the case of Punjab and said that there were some areas in this province which were even more under-developed than any other part of the country.

He termed the recent disturbances in Karachi as "racial clashes", adding that it was the responsibility of the provincial government to solve such issues.

The chair ruled out of order the adjournment motion on technical grounds.

/9274

CSO: 4600/73

DENATIONALIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OPPOSED

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 86 p 1

[Text]

LAHORE, Dec. 7: Some more organisations of the teachers have expressed grave concern over the decision of the Government to denationalise the Christian educational institutions in the Punjab and urged the Government to revise its decision.

The Punjab Lecturers Association, while expressing resentment at the announcement of the Prime Minister demanded that the educational institutions should not be returned to the missionary organisations because this step would adversely effect the teachers, who were exploited by the Christian managements before nationalisation.

The College Teachers Association, Punjab, has also protested against the decision of the Government to denationalise the Christian educational institutions and urged the Government to refrain from

implementation of this unwise step. A meeting of the executive committee of the Association held under the chairmanship of Prof. Abdul Hayee Naik through a resolution said that the denationalisation of the colleges previously owned by missionary organisations would further over burden the students and their parents. The resolution termed the decision against the Five-Point Programme of the Prime Minister.

Mr. Saghir Ahmad Cheema and Gul Chaman Shah, Chairman and Acting Secretary of the Lahore Student's Council respectively, have condemned what they called 'an unwise' decision of the Government about denationalisation of Christian educational institutions and demanded that this decision should be withdrawn, with immediate effect.

/6091

CSO: 4600/81

PIR PAGARO TALKS ABOUT MOHAJIRS, OTHER ISSUES

Karachi DAWN in English 20 Nov 86 p 3

[Text]

SUKKUR, Nov 19: Pir Saheb Pagaro has said that Mohajirs in Karachi and Hyderabad have damaged their own cause by resorting to violence, and thus, they have themselves shattered the foothold they so far enjoyed as a community in Sind.

He was talking to newsmen at the residence of Syed Sikandar Ali Shah in Babarloo near Sukkur where he was the guest of honour at a lunch on Wednesday.

Pir Pagaro said that Mohajirs would never get old Sindhis closer than like the Palestinians who were welcomed in Arab countries in the beginning, but when they became a problem for the Arabs, they earned hatred for themselves. He said the same was the case with Mohajirs in Sind, who should not indulge in such clashes with other communities.

Moreover, Pir Saheb said, the leadership emerging among Mohajirs was not the one needed but it was young and emotional. He added that it was now the responsibility of the old and experienced Mohajir leadership to come forward and lead the community in the right direction as the Mohajirs could never be identified as a separate nationality in Pakistan.

MINISTERS AND PML: About the Pakistan Muslim League, Pir Saheb admitted that the Ministers were doing nothing to popularise Pakistan Muslim League. He said if the state of affairs continued to remain the same he would get his old Muslim League, of which he is the chief, registered with the Election Commission. That way, he added,

fresh elections could also be demanded so that the country had a truly representative government. He also said that the present government was not a truly Muslim League government.

Replying a newsman, Pir Pagaro was also of the opinion that the offices of the Prime Minister and that of the chief of the Pakistan Muslim League should remain with the same person at the centre, but at provincial and other lower levels the Presidents of the PML should not be the same persons holding government positions.

At the centre, he added, the two posts should be in the hands of the same person in order to avoid any possible clash on some matters, but at other lower levels there was no possibility of any such clash.

Referring to the recovery of huge quantities of arms and ammunitions, Pir Saheb said that a political party seems to have followed the Jamaat-e-Islami way for arming itself to pressurise the government to come to terms with it. It was now for the government, he added, to investigate, to find out as to which political party owned these arms and ammunitions.

KARACHI'S STATUS: Pir Pagaro denied having said that Karachi should again be made the capital of the country. He said that what he had said was that Karachi should be made a presidency as it was made so by the Quaid-i-Azam himself.

About the Nawaz Sharif-Pervaiz Ellahi conflict, Pir Saheb said that no compromise had yet been arrived between the two. When asked if he was mediating in the matter,

Pir Saheb added "who am I to mediate between them." But some change seems to follow in the light of the "khichri" that was being cooked internally.

Pir Pagaro opposed the Shariat Bill presented by the Jamaat-e-Islami for passage by the National Assembly saying this would be instrumental in creating more "Firqas" among the Muslims. He suggested that the government should bring another Shariat Bill acceptable to all schools of thought in the country.

FRESH ELECTIONS: He said that it was not necessary that the next elections should only be held in 1990. Elections could be held even earlier.

He, however, said that whenever fresh elections were held, these would necessarily be held on party basis. He said that the party emerging victorious in fresh elections on party basis would be capable of reviewing the constitution afresh to meet the demands of new developments in the country. And it could only be the real Muslim League which could do the job with full responsibility, he added.

Pir Saheb also said that the government should have imposed a ban on public meetings and processions much earlier. The unregistered political parties had no moral and legal justification to hold public meetings and bring out processions, whereas there should be no ban whatsoever on public meetings and processions of the political parties who got themselves registered under the law.

COMMENTARY VIEWS KARACHI'S 'CRIME MAFIA'

Karachi DAWN in English 18 Nov 86 p 7

[Text]

WITH its well-recognised potential for social disorder, Karachi has become a major hunting-ground for certain kinds of criminal elements. In fact, a proper insight into the growth of organised crime in the city has become integral to a study of the socio-economic causes which breed frequent violent disturbances. Now that there is a compelling need to understand the genesis of the recent inter-group riots, we should not ignore the existence of the crime mafia which invariably profits from any disorder and also acts as a begetter and promoter of organised crime and violence. To a large extent, the induction of sophisticated arms and hard drugs has been facilitated by the existing conditions of social disequilibrium; in turn, these have also contributed to raising the level of deviant behaviour and crime in society. It may be observed that every successive outbreak of disorder in Karachi has tended to be more violent and extensive than the one preceding it. Hence, any corrective measures have necessarily to correspond to the real dimension and the virulent potential of the breeding ground. It must be noted that while grievances of civic or socio-economic importance demand complex responses across the wide spectrum of policy and planning, specific administrative measures designed to decon-

taminate the source of the pestilence would be required to deal with the arms and drug mafia entrenched here. To be sure, it would not be a simple or easy exercise. It never is, especially if a crime mafia is able, for whatever reasons, to spread its tentacles to the dark recesses of a disturbed and divided society and becomes too powerful to be eliminated by ordinary measures. But a refusal or reluctance to confront it can ultimately make the entire society hostage to its evil designs.

What we are referring to is an entrenched vice racket with wide ramifications and an enormous destructive potential. That social factors have fostered increased drug addiction and criminal behaviour is hard to deny, but the fact must be recognised that the mafia has helped create a market in the first place and then exploited it. Bold and imaginative measures are urgently needed to suppress the activities of this mafia. The action may form a nationwide campaign targeted against gun running and drug trafficking but the problem as it exists in Karachi may call for a firmer approach considering its dimensions and the very grave implications it has for peace and order in this problem-ridden city. A massive operation involving the army was required to tackle the dacoits in the interior of Sind

who are known to have acquired sophisticated weapons. But when such weapons become available in Karachi on a wide scale, the consequences could be incredibly more lethal. Similarly, drug addiction is invariably the seed of crime which can destroy the very fabric of our society. The sale of illegal arms and drugs, mainly heroin, is now no more a secret phenomenon. Even students have been using automatic weapons to settle accounts with their rivals. This spread of arms and drugs has created a scare in society, engendering a sense of insecurity which enhances the danger of discord and disorder.

A well-planned attack on the arms and drug mafia has long been over-due. It has become necessary to protect Karachi from recurring violent disturbances. By not taking any decisive action in the past, the local administration may have contributed to the growth of an underworld of crime. But if the Government continues to vacillate and fails to take action even now, the mafia may eventually emerge as a daunting force and become almost invincible. Now and then, action is reported against petty pedlars of arms and drugs. Some-

times just the drug addicts, themselves victims rather than perpetrators of crime, are picked up by the police. But the menace can only be controlled when the long arm of the law reaches the sources of supply of both arms and drugs. Local authorities surely have the power and the means to locate these sources and pick up the bosses of the crime syndicate. An underworld that supplies guns and drugs simply cannot be left untouched and flourishing. Wide sections of society in Karachi, irrespective of their ethnic, social or sectarian origin, will welcome such a crackdown and should be willing to cooperate with the administration in carrying it out. Drugs and illicit arms have no ethnicity even as the business of the dacoits has none. Every one should understand the real reason why this or that underworld should run for ethnic cover. Such a cover should never be made available for so unworthy a purpose. All the illegal arms must be flushed out and the trade in drugs effectively rooted out. Once the crime mafia has been taken care of, dealing with the complex socio-economic problems of Karachi will be a little easier.

/9274
CSO: 4600/71

MUSLIM LEAGUE CHATHA GROUP'S INTERNAL TURMOIL DISCUSSED

Karachi JANG in Urdu 19 Oct 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Heartbroken"]

[Excerpt] The 1970 general elections totally wiped out every group of the Muslim League that existed in East and West Pakistan. For nearly 10 years, there was not a single follower of any group of the Muslim League in the entire country. Some Muslim Leaguers, under the leadership of Pir Sahib Pagara, did carry out some activity for the proposed elections that were scheduled to be held at first in October 1977 and then in November 1979. However, since on both occasions the elections were either postponed or cancelled, the Muslim League could not play any role in the national life. On 16 October 1979, all parties were declared defunct. Nevertheless, like the other parties, the Muslim League also, while suffering the effect of being defunct, tried to continue with some of its activities. The 1985 elections were held on a nonparty basis. In February 1986, however, under the leadership of Mohammad Khan Junejo, the Muslim League was revived. During the defunct era, another group of the Muslim League remained active under the name of the Chatha League or the Khwaja Khairuddin League. After being granted permission for political activities, this group also, as a member of the MRD, tried to prove its organizational existence. But sad to say, work as a united organization was not its destiny. Instead, for a period of time, there was contention between its president and the general secretary. Recently, a denouement occurred where by a one group ousted Khawaja Khairuddin from the presidency and appointed Malik Qasim the leader of the party. The other group, after deciding to expel Malik Qasim, handed over to Khwaja Khairuddin the power to appoint new officeholders in place of Malik Qasim, etc. Both parties have reasons to support their respective stand, mention of which has already been made in the press. Without involving ourselves in the argument as to which party's stand carries more weight and is better founded both constitutionally and legally, what we want to point out here is that the recent fighting and internal turmoil of the Muslim League (Chata Group) has not only further harmed the reputation of an organization which claims to be the founding party of Pakistan, but has also led to the public ridicule of political organizations and leaders in general. The Muslim League (Chata Group) was one group among the four or five groups that existed under the name of the Muslim League, and now, it has undergone further division. Both groups are washing their dirty linen in public. The consequence of this can be none other than that

the political parties and leaders will suffer further disrepute. The people's disgust with them will be somewhat further increased. We regard this situation as a bad omen for the country's political and democratic future. Because, after this, the people will start demonstrating further annoyance with the political forces. We wish that our political leaders could show some discernment regarding the great challenges that they are already confronting and that they could do some thinking and planning to keep their house in order. They, however, are bent on creating opportunities for their own disgrace. If both the leaders of the Muslim League (Chata Group) had possessed any sort of realistic attitude, instead of bringing their conflict before the people in the form of an open and personal war they should have tried to resolve their differences by staying within the party order. The plight of numerous other political organizations is also sad. We ask that they give some consideration to their honor and avoid further deterioration of the public view of their sincerity, organizational capability, selflessness, prudence and patriotism. If their method of action does not change, they will have no right to complain that an effort is being made to weaken the democratic forces and that they do not enjoy full freedom of action.

9779/12951

CSO: 4656/16

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

PRC DELEGATION RETURNS--A high-level PRC National Defense University team left Rawalpindi for Beijing today after a 10-day visit to Pakistan. During their stay, the members of the team called on the president and the prime minister. They also exchanged views with the chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee and the heads of the Armed Forces. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1700 GMT 26 Nov 86] /9604

PRC AMBASSADOR MEETS JUNEJO--The new ambassador of the People's Republic of China, (Pyong Deng), made a courtesy call on the prime minister. He delivered a goodwill message from the Chinese leaders to the prime minister. Expressing similar sentiments, the prime minister asked the Chinese ambassador to convey a goodwill message on behalf of the people of Pakistan and his own behalf to the leaders of the People's Republic of China. Referring to his visit to China the prime minister said his maiden visit was to China. He said Pakistan-China friendship has withstood every test of time and there has been an increase in the fruitful cooperation in various fields between the two countries. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Dec 86] /9604

SHACKLING OF POLITICAL DETAINEES--There are disquieting reports from Karachi that political prisoners are being kept in chains. In one case a detenu was brought to Jinnah Hospital and kept in a side room with his feet chained. It is deplorable that such unsavory things should happen under a government which claims that it is wedded to democracy and draws inspiration from Islamic values. This dichotomy in words and actions must cease. Political prisoners must be treated more humanely as is the practice in civilised countries. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Nov 86 p 5] /9604

WORK ON 7TH PLAN--20 Nov--The Planning Commission has started work on the seventh Five-Year Plan, starting from 1988. The Commissioner has formed working groups on energy, education, health, commerce and agriculture, taxation, communications, rural and urban development, investment and shipping. Knowledgeable sources told 'Dawn' on Thursday that these groups had asked their relevant departments to submit proposals regarding the initial estimates of their financial demands by the middle of December next. The group are supposed to submit their findings to the Government by June next. The sources were reluctant to disclose official estimates of the volume of the next Plan. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 21 Nov 86 Business Supplement p 1] /9274

AMNESTY DEMANDED--Karachi, Dec. 7--Mr. Nafis Siddiqui, Information Secretary, NPP, today demanded amnesty for all those Pakistanis living abroad who were convicted by military courts in absentia or wanted in cases registered during Martial Law period in the country. Talking to newsmen at the NPP Central Secretariat, Mr. Siddiqui returned here yesterday from London said it was a humanitarian and political issue. He said on return home cases, if any, against these should be referred for trial in normal civil courts. He said all these Pakistanis, who have been living in U.K. and some other countries for several years, want to return home and serve their country. He demanded adequate time for all political parties over radio and TV to project their point of view, so that a national consensus was evolved on important issues.--PPI. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 86 p 7] /6091

DRA MEDIATION TRIP PLANNED--Islamabad, Dec. 7 KYODO--A delegation of tribal leaders from Pakistan will visit Kabul in February to try to mediate between the Afghan Government and refugees taking shelter in Pakistan. Yousof Hussain, [spelling as received] the president of Tehrik-e-qabail [spelling as received] (movement of the tribesmen), an organization representing tribesmen from all over Pakistan's tribal belt, said in Peshawar Sunday that a meeting of leaders from all the tribes was being convened December 25 to organize the delegation to visit Kabul. He said the war in Afghanistan had become a great danger to life and property and the political, social and economic institutions of the tribal people, and for that reason it had been decided to undertake a reconciliation effort between the refugees and the Afghan Government. He also strongly criticized Pakistan's Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's recent visit to the tribal area, and accused him of serving American interests. Hussain said strongly worded warnings made from tribal areas adjoining Afghanistan would only accelerate the undeclared war against the government in Kabul. The prime minister had failed to assure local people of protection against increasing border violations and subversion which is taking a heavy toll on life and property in the tribal areas, he said. [Text] [Tokyo KYODO in English 0640 GMT 7 Dec 86 OW] /6662

PRC TECHNOLOGY ON 'EASY TERMS'--The PRC is willing to provide Pakistan with the best available technology on easy and appropriate terms without any hesitation. This was said by (Hi Hikan) deputy director of the PRC's National Corporation of Import and Export of Machine Tools, during his meeting yesterday in Karachi with members of the Pakistani Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Dec 86 BK] /6662

SAUDI FUND LOAN--Islamabad, Dec. 7--Saudi Fund for Development will advance 52 million interest-free loan for Left Bank Outfall Indus Drain project, Sheikh Muhammad Al Sughair, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Fund said here this evening. He was talking to the newsmen at the Islamabad airport on his arrival from Saudi Arabia at the head of a 4-member delegation of Saudi Fund for Development. The total cost of the outfall drain project, he said, was \$635 million. This will not only irrigate 578,000 hectares more land but would also help the drainage project. The Saudi Fund has provided soft loans for 11 projects so far with an amount of Rs. 440 million besides the outfall drain project.--APP. [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 8 Dec 86 Supplement p III] /6091

CSO: 4600/81

LTTE LEADER STATEMENT ON FAST REPORTED, VIEWED

BK290356 (Clandestine) Voice of Tamil Eelam in Tamil 1328 GMT 23 Nov 86

[Text] Leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] Prabhakaran has begun a fast until death. He has also released an official statement on behalf of the LTTE explaining his action. As this fast is being undertaken on Indian soil, it may have a bearing on the political affairs of that country. It should be noted here that the people of Tamil Nadu support the valiant struggle of the people of Tamil Eelam. It is possible to think that the death fast undertaken by LTTE leader Comrade Prabhakaran--who is demanding permission to return to his country to continue the struggle and restoration of all his organization's seized assets and possessions--is a prelude to struggle against the central and state governments of India. If indeed this struggle has been launched, it would affect the foreign policy of the Tamil Eelam fighters. Even if Prabhakaran would like to launch such a struggle, it is doubtful whether or not other organizations and their leaders would follow suit. Therefore, Prabhakaran's agitation will leave the rise or fall of the Tigers at the aggressive hands of the Government of India.

Now let us see the official statement of Comrade Velupillai Prabhakaran, the supreme head of LTTE and the commander in chief of the forces:

The actions taken by the state and central governments of India against our organization in the past 2 weeks have, to a great extent, affected the struggle for freedom of the people of Tamil Eelam. We are afraid that the actions of the state and central governments of India--confiscating our weapons, seizing our communication equipment, watching our movements and exerting many pressures on us--at a time when the Sri Lankan Government is vehemently trying to do away with the people of Tamil Eelam group by group, will not only strengthen the hand of the Sri Lankan Government but will also lead to the annihilation of the people of Tamil Eelam. Our people who are facing genocide, have immense faith in India, especially Tamil Nadu. Nurturing deep historical, cultural, and aesthetic relations with India, they have been living with the hope that India would be their guardian. However, the recent actions of the state and the central governments have thrown our people into a vulnerable and very dangerous situation.

The racist Sri Lankan Government which was amused and encouraged by the action taken against LTTE in Tamil Nadu, has been taking steps to crack down on the

Tamil areas. Yesterday, 21 November 1986, we learned that the Sri Lankan Army made a major attack against innocent Tamil people in Mullaittivu.

Even though our organization has not indulged in any antisocial activities, our arms have been confiscated from us. We were very hurt by the confiscation of weapons kept for protecting our helpless people, but we are not disheartened.

The action of confiscating the communications equipment used for maintaining contact with our people and freedom fighters is very (?regrettable). We consider this to be a serious action which will isolate us from the freedom struggle for Tamil Eelam. This action severing the world from the atrocities and injustice committed against the people of Tamil Eelam will help cover up the genocide unleashed by the Sri Lankan Government against the people of Tamil Eelam. In order to strongly protest these actions I have undertaken a fast unto death from the early morning of 22 November 1986. I have made this decision to expose to the people of Tamil Nadu and the world the pathetic conditions of the people of Tamil Eelam today. Our communications equipment should be restored to us immediately. The police surveillance should be forthwith. Otherwise, I should be allowed unconditionally to go to Tamil Eelam and fight for our helpless people. I would like to say categorically that I will continue to fast unto death until these demands are fulfilled.

This statement, signed by V. Prabhakran, LTTE, was released yesterday.

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